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Miyatani

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(54) **IMAGING DEVICE, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD**

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H04N 5/3745 (2011.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H04N 5/23216** (2013.01); **H04N 5/3745** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04N 5/23212; H04N 9/04557; H04N 5/232122; H04N 5/3696; H04N 5/36961;

(Continued)

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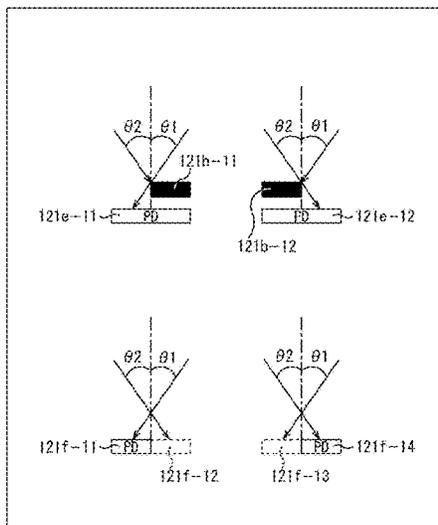
Primary Examiner — Farhan Mahmud

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Chip Law Group

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure relates to an imaging device, an image processing apparatus, and an image processing method by which the versatility of an imaging device is improved. The imaging device includes a semiconductor substrate, a plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target entering without intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, the configuration being operable to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and a plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity. The present disclosure can be applied, for example, to imaging apparatus.

16 Claims, 31 Drawing Sheets



(58) **Field of Classification Search**
 CPC H04N 9/045; H04N 5/232123; H01L
 27/14627; H01L 27/14623; G03B 13/36
 See application file for complete search history.

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FIG. 1

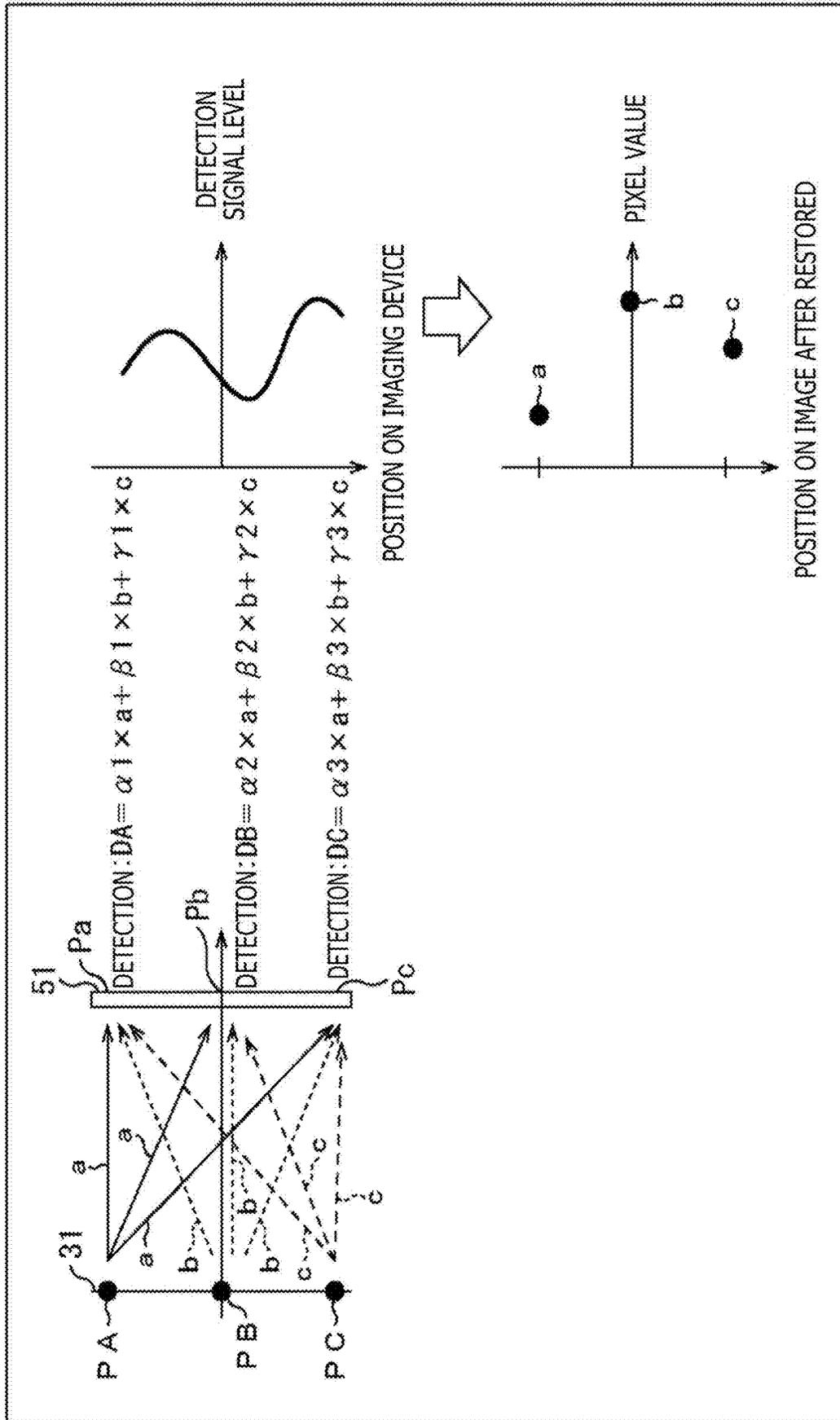


FIG. 2

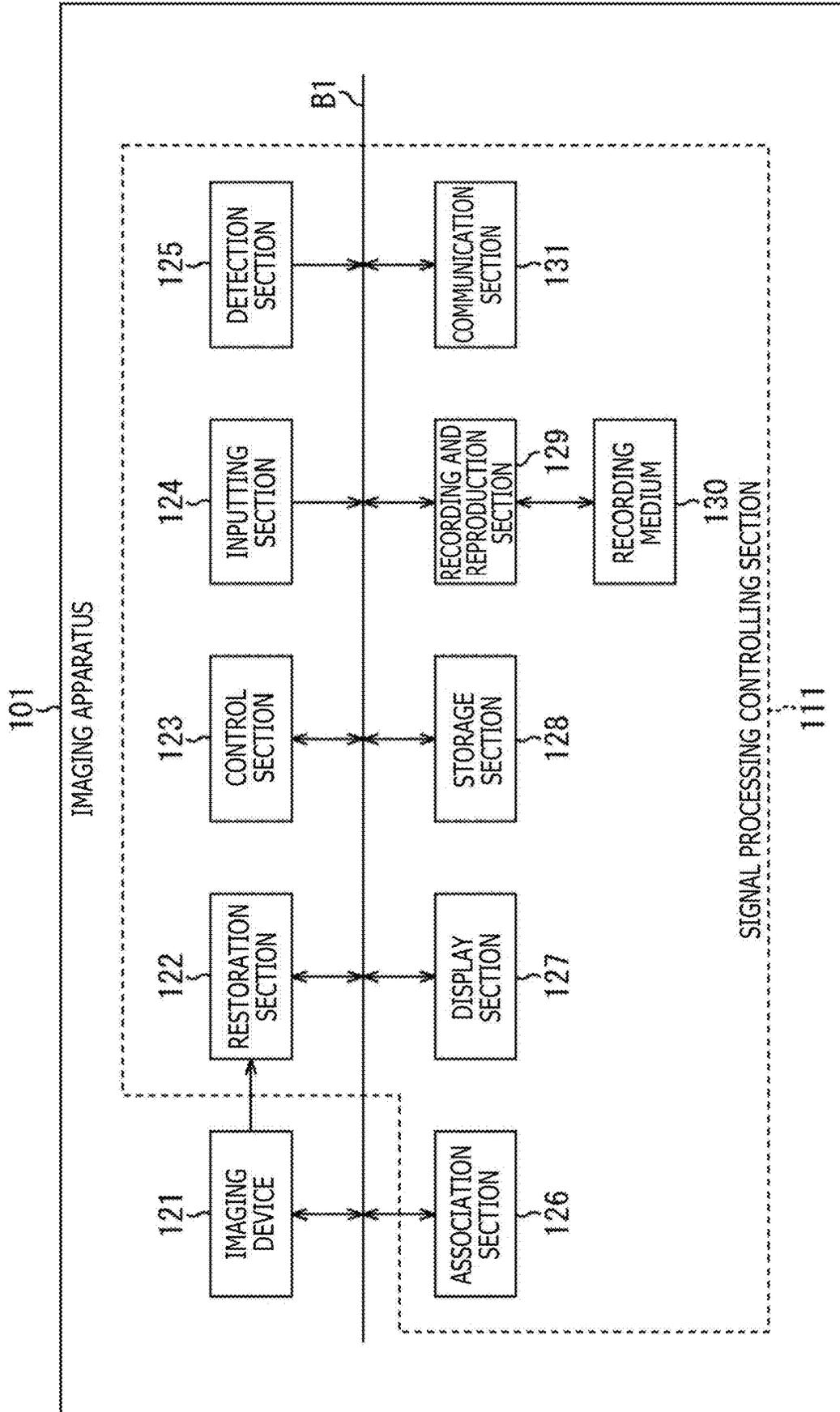


FIG. 3

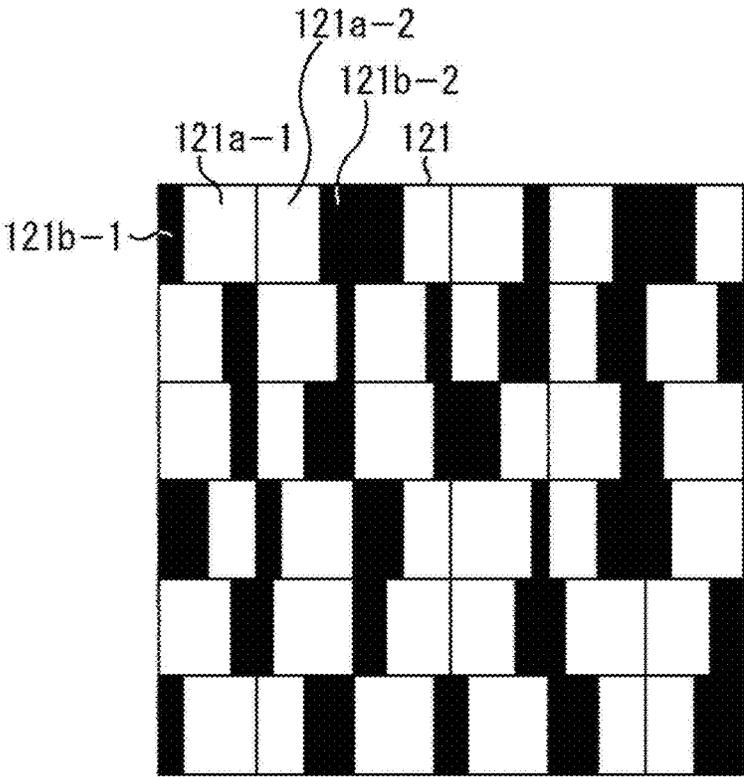


FIG. 4

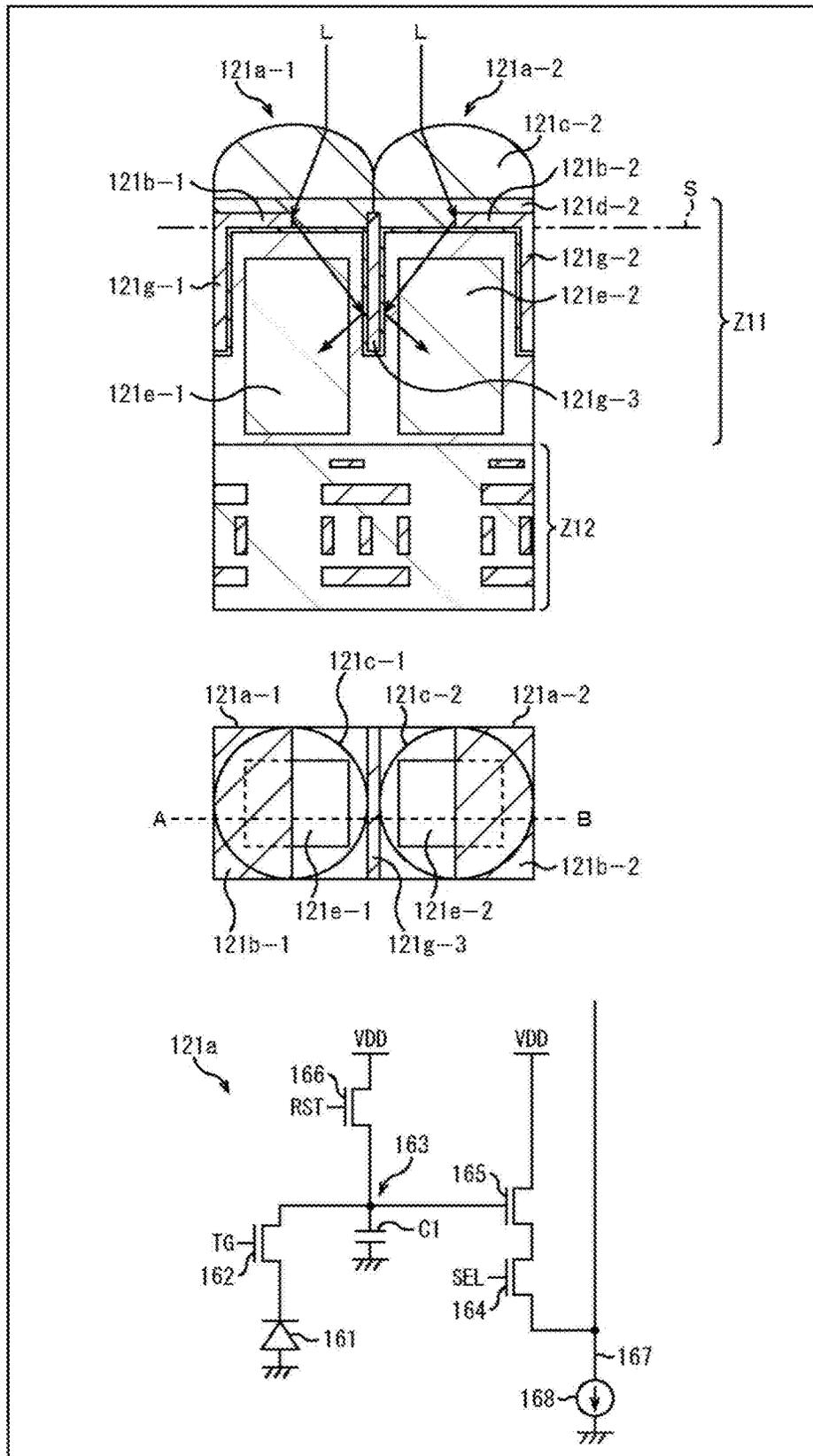


FIG. 5

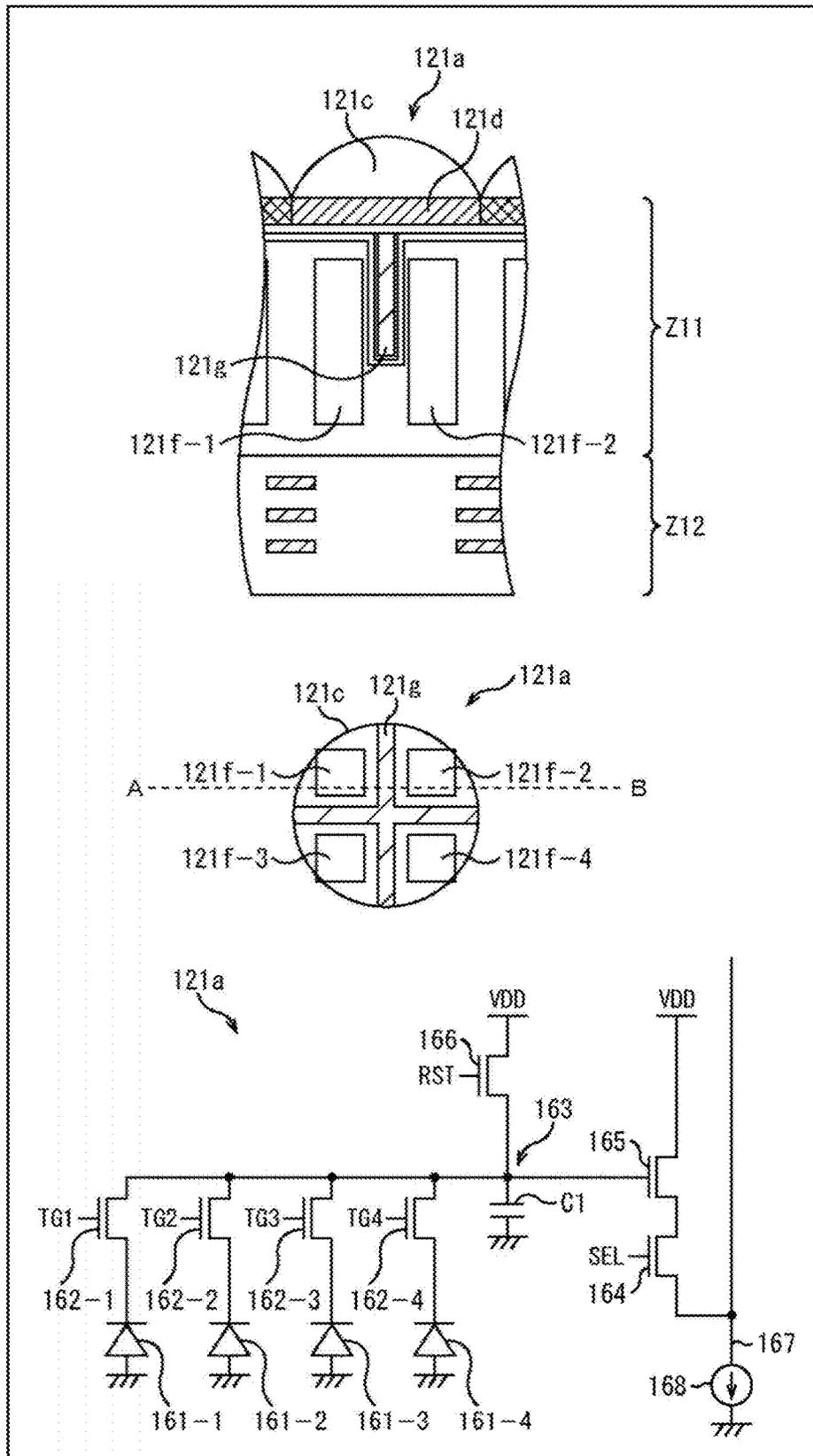


FIG. 6

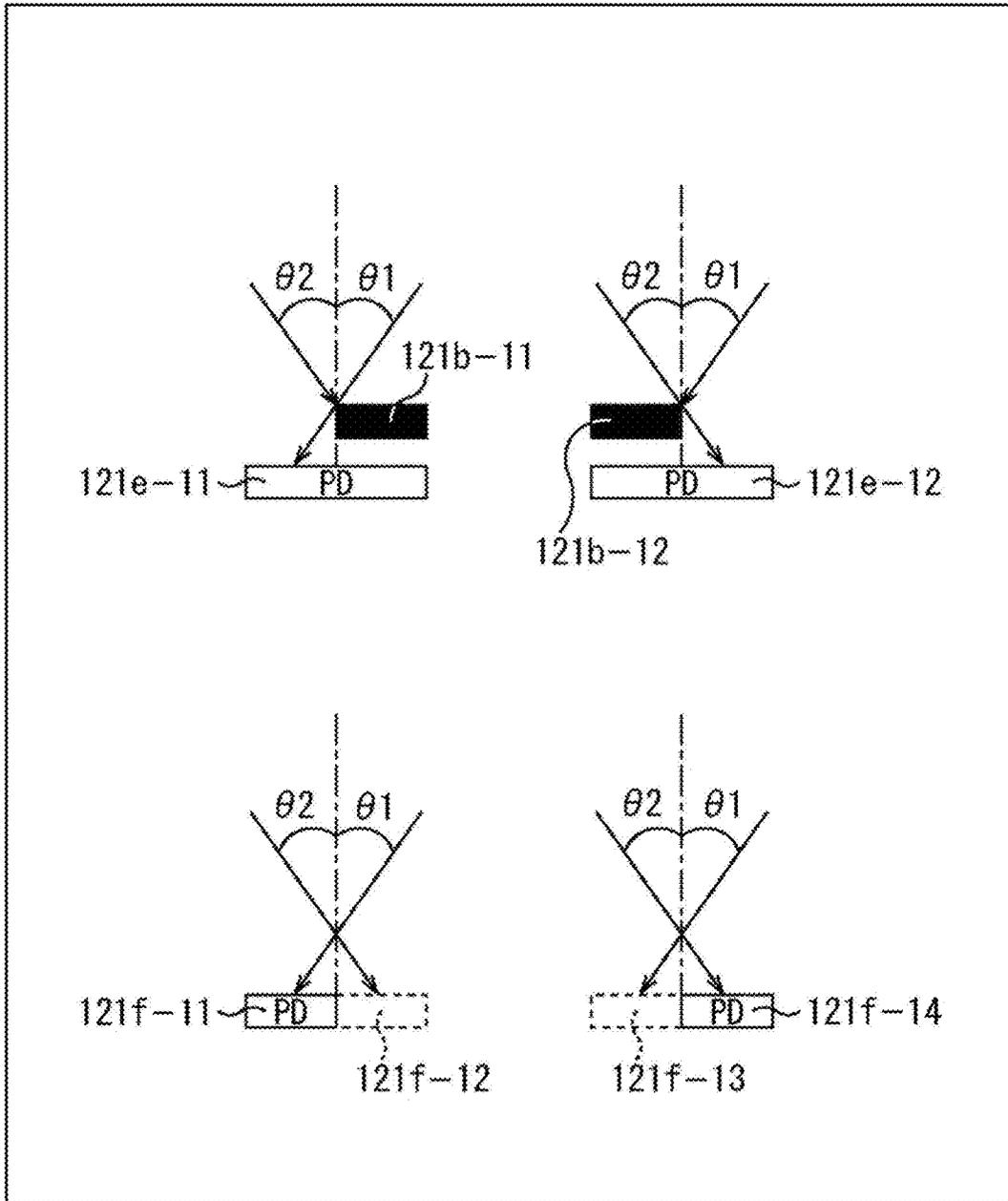


FIG. 7

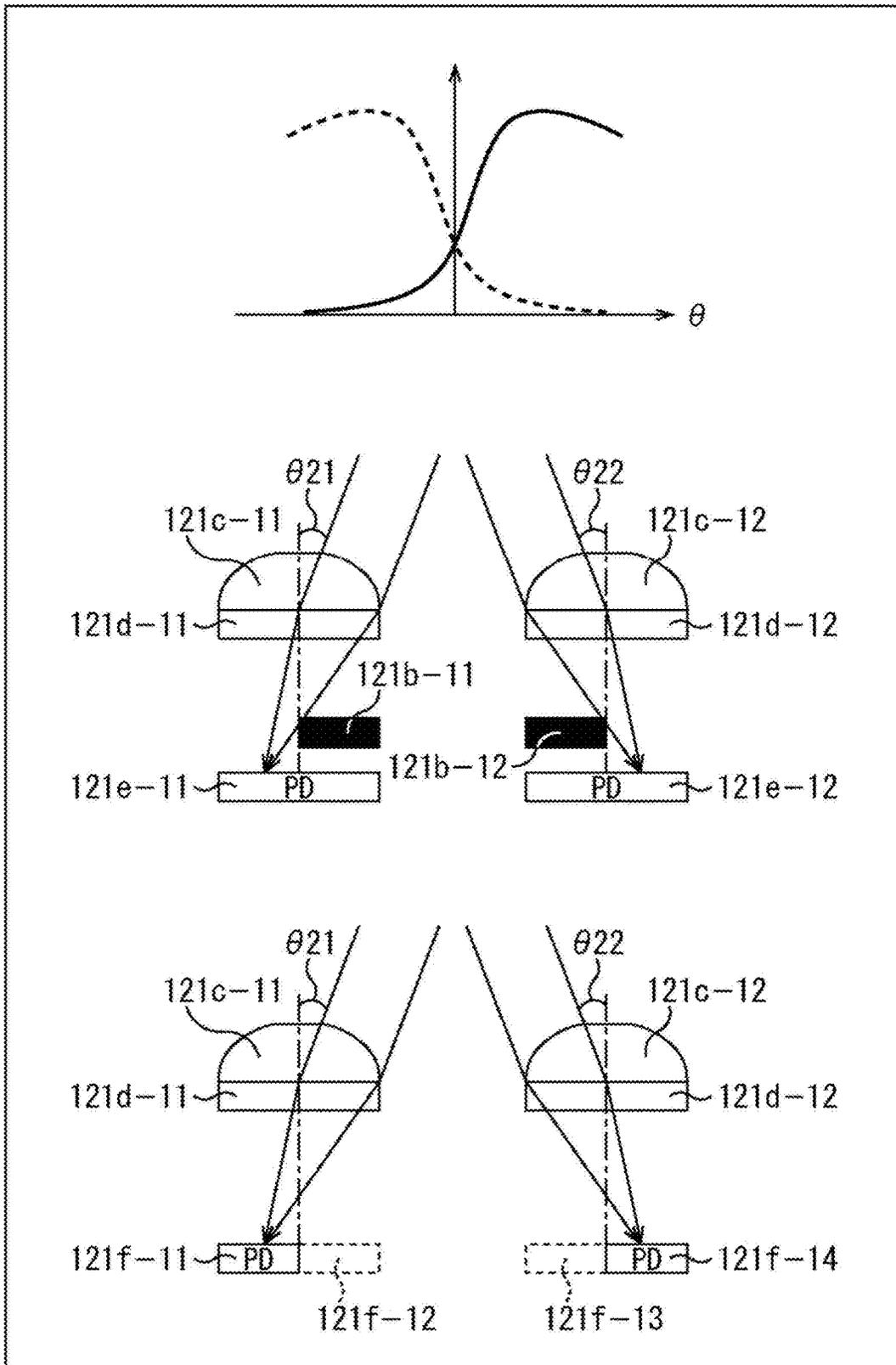


FIG. 8

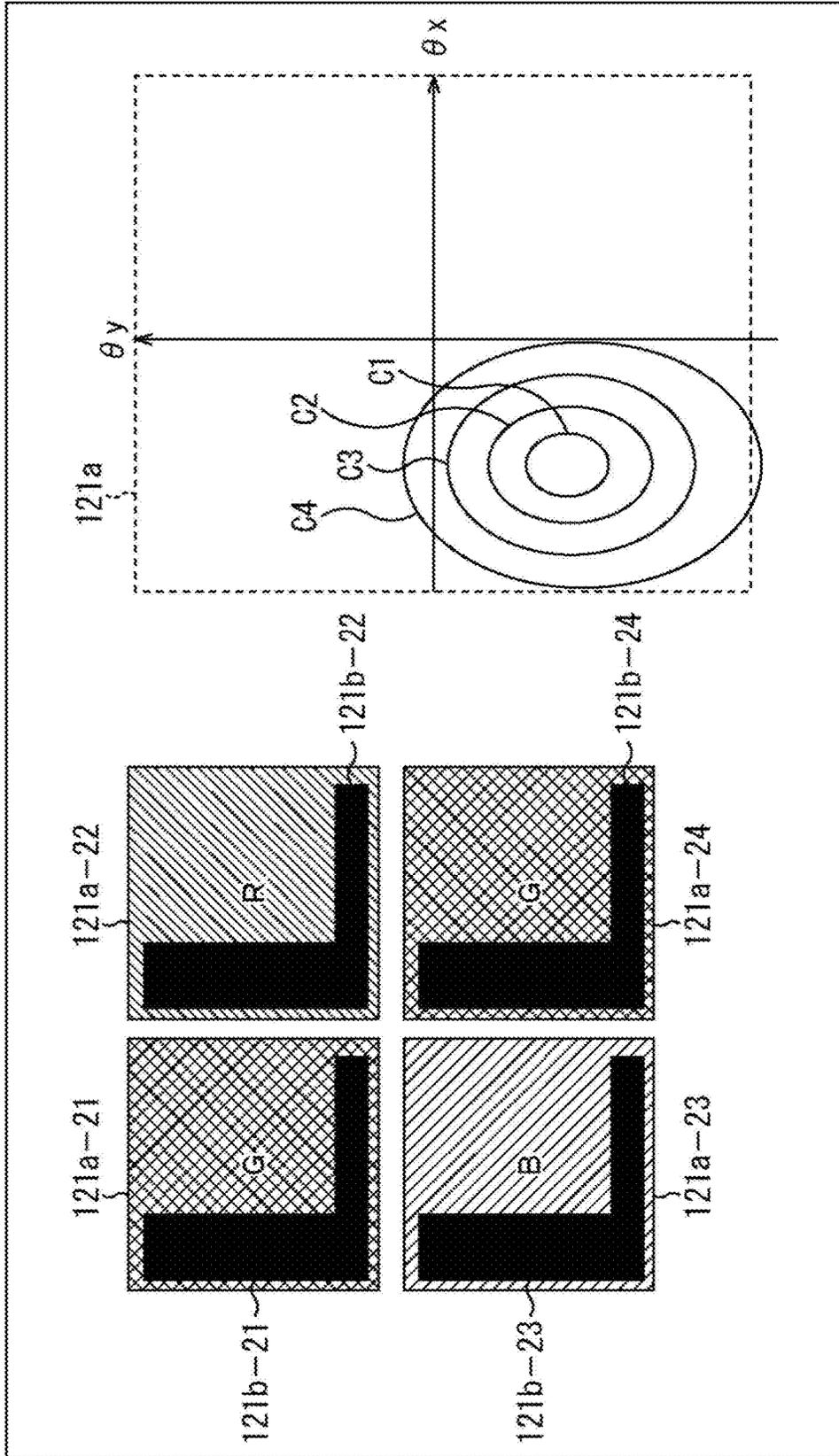


FIG. 9

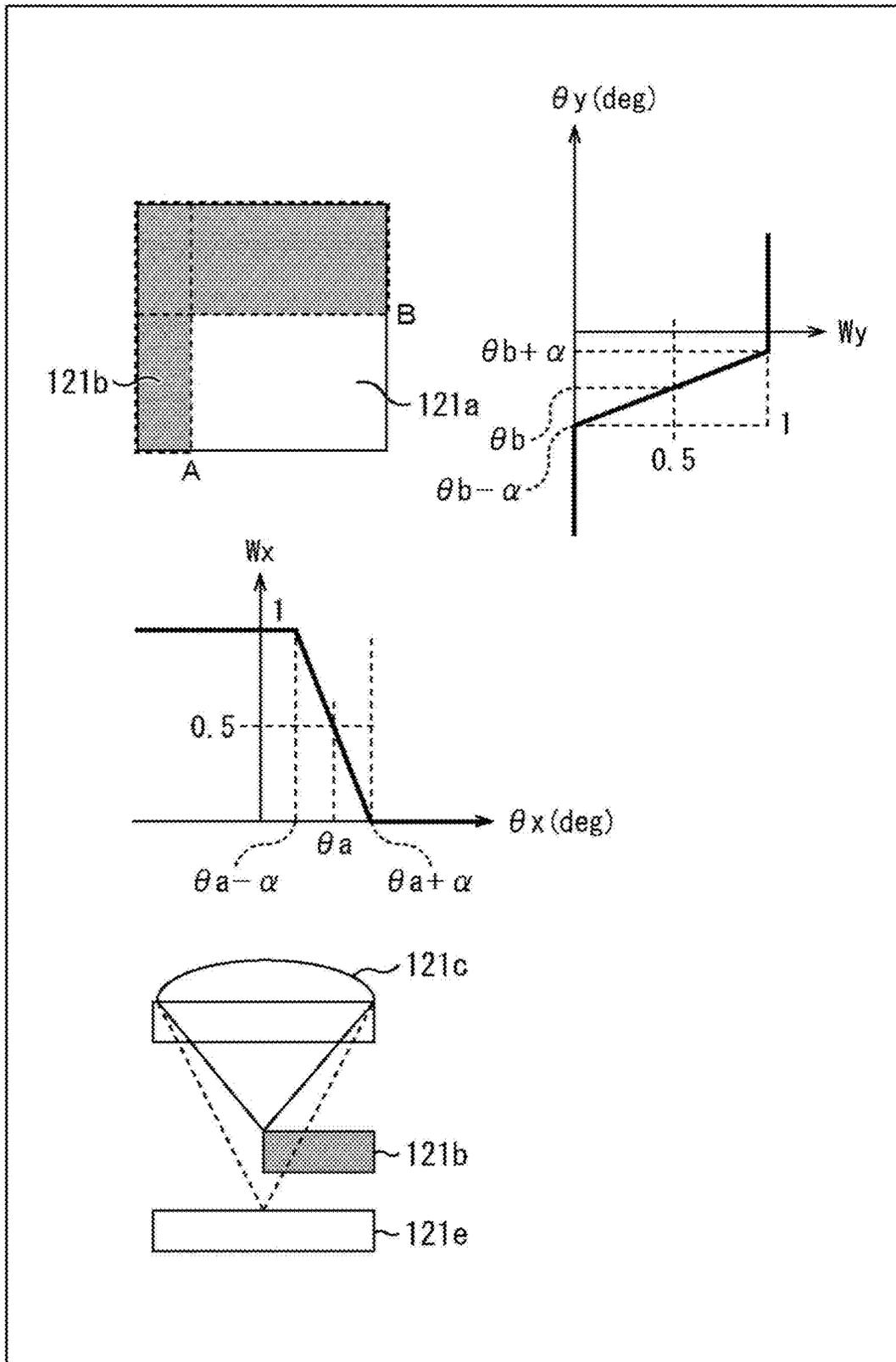


FIG. 10

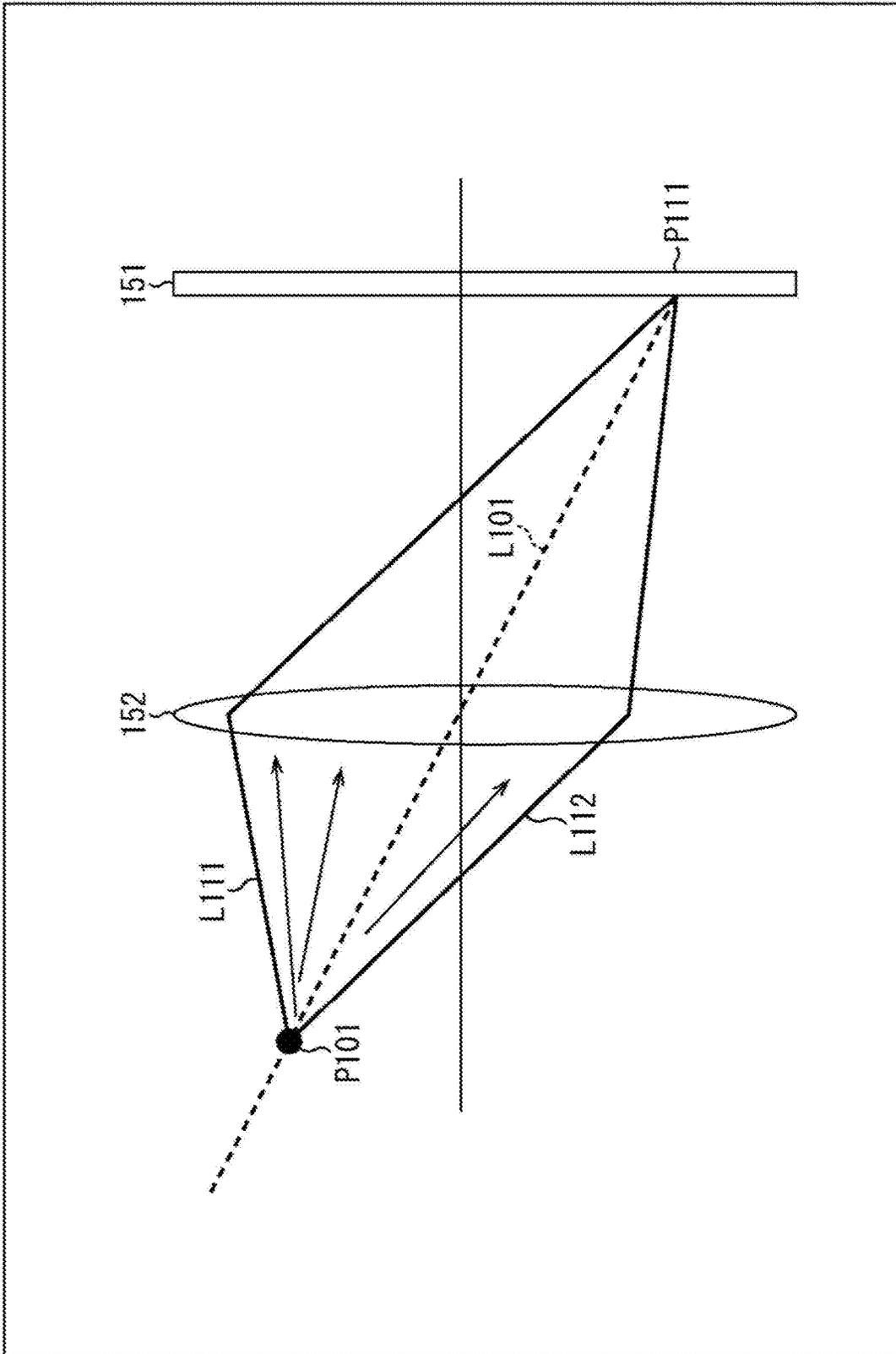
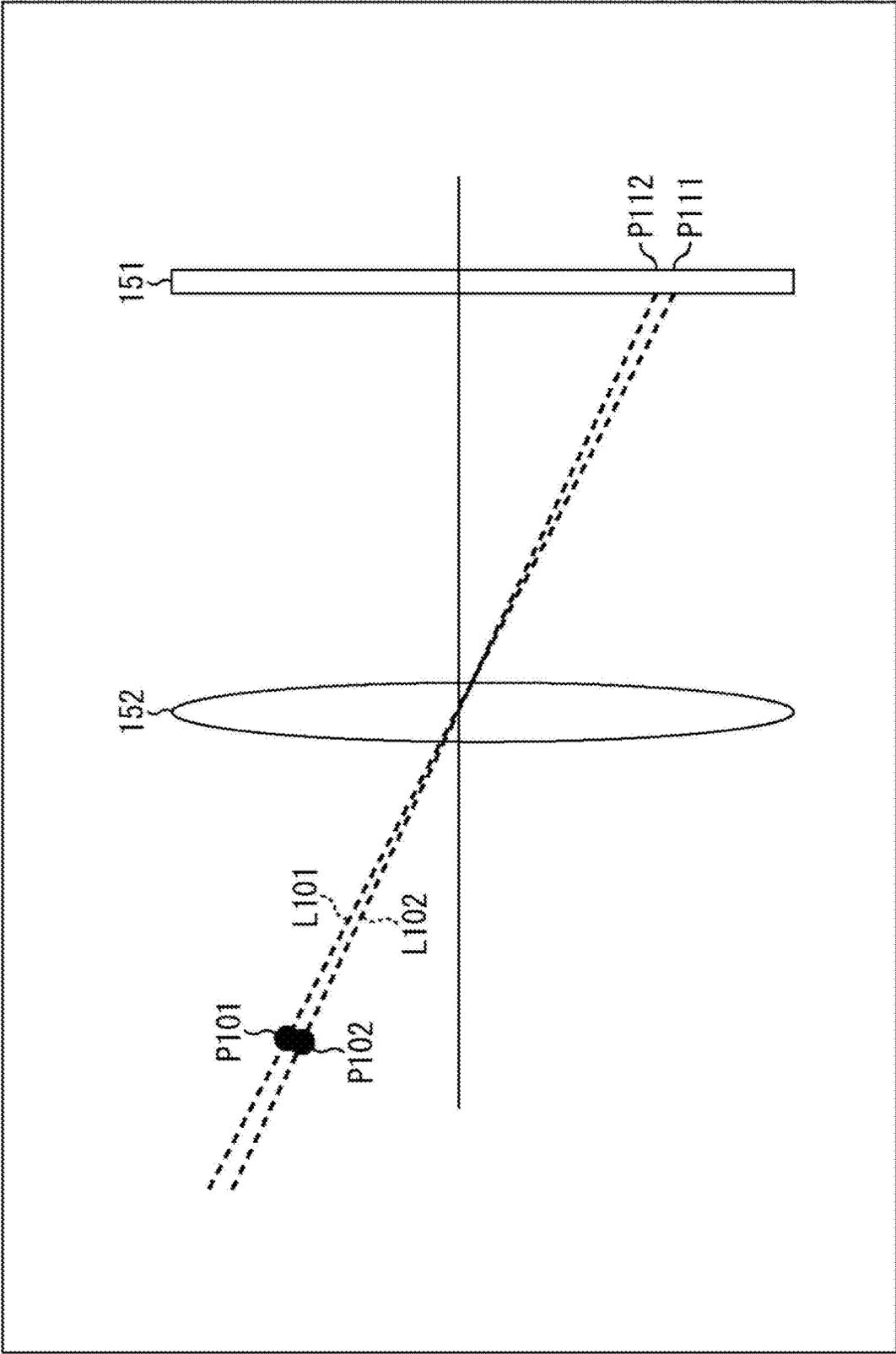


FIG. 11



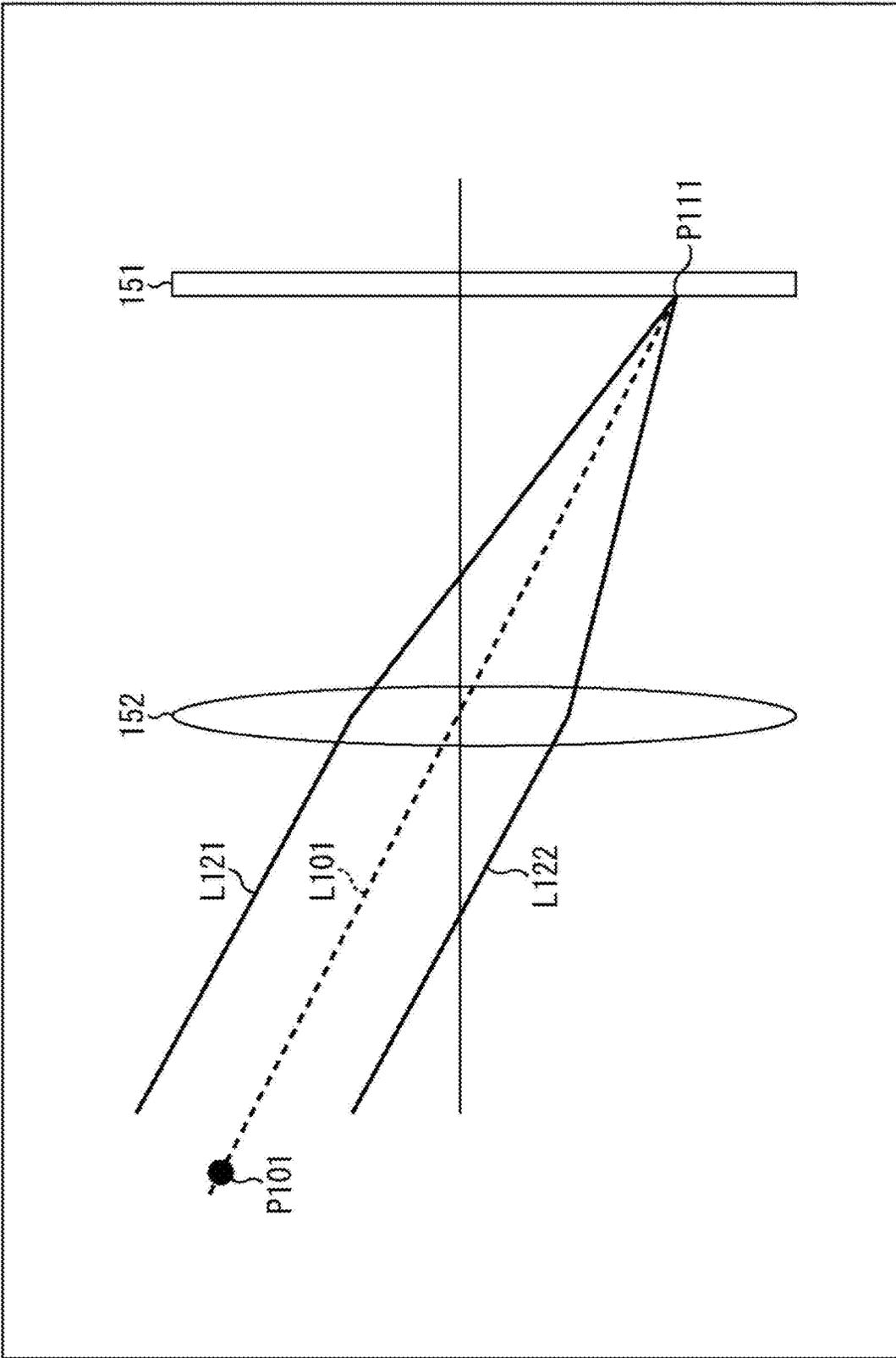


FIG. 12

FIG. 13

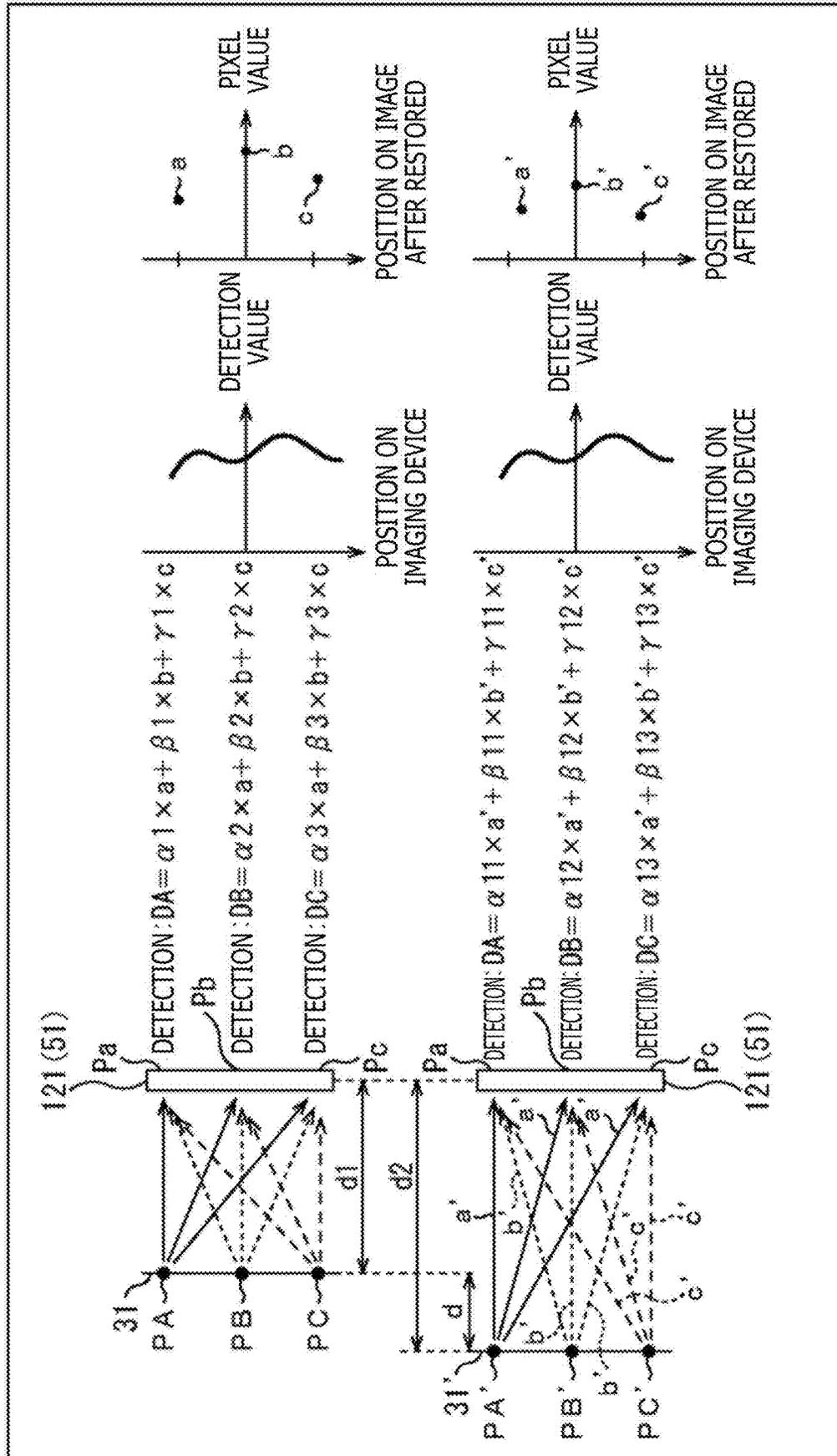


FIG. 14

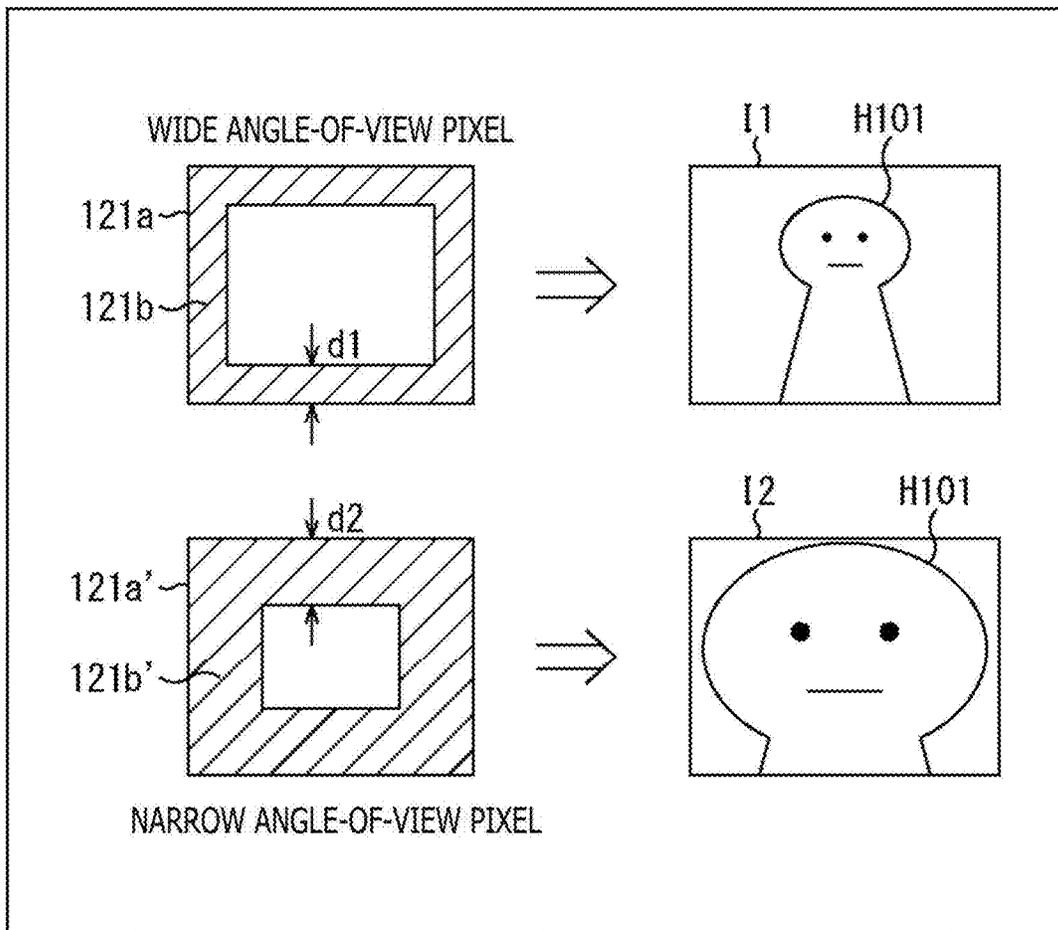


FIG. 15

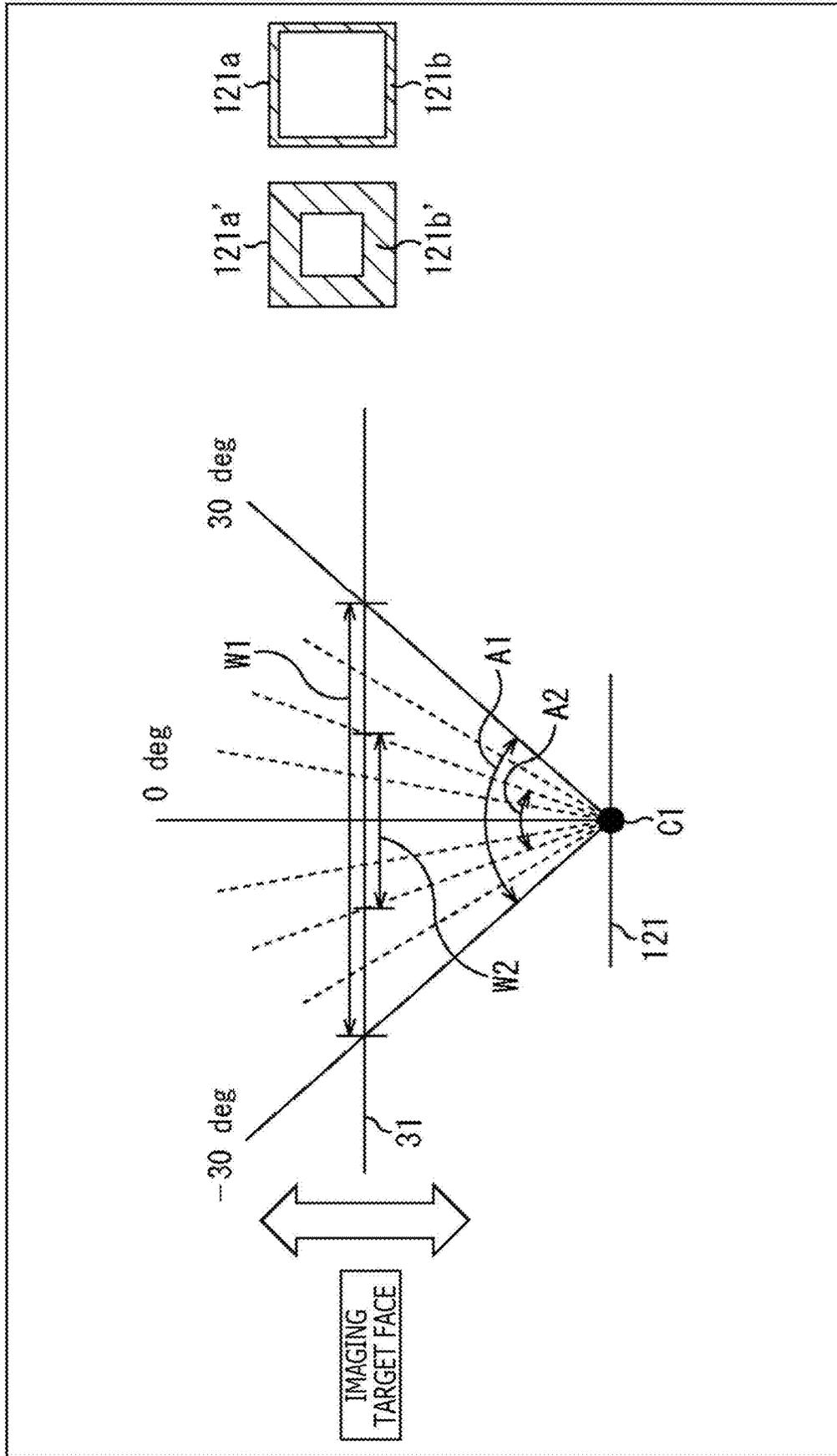


FIG. 16

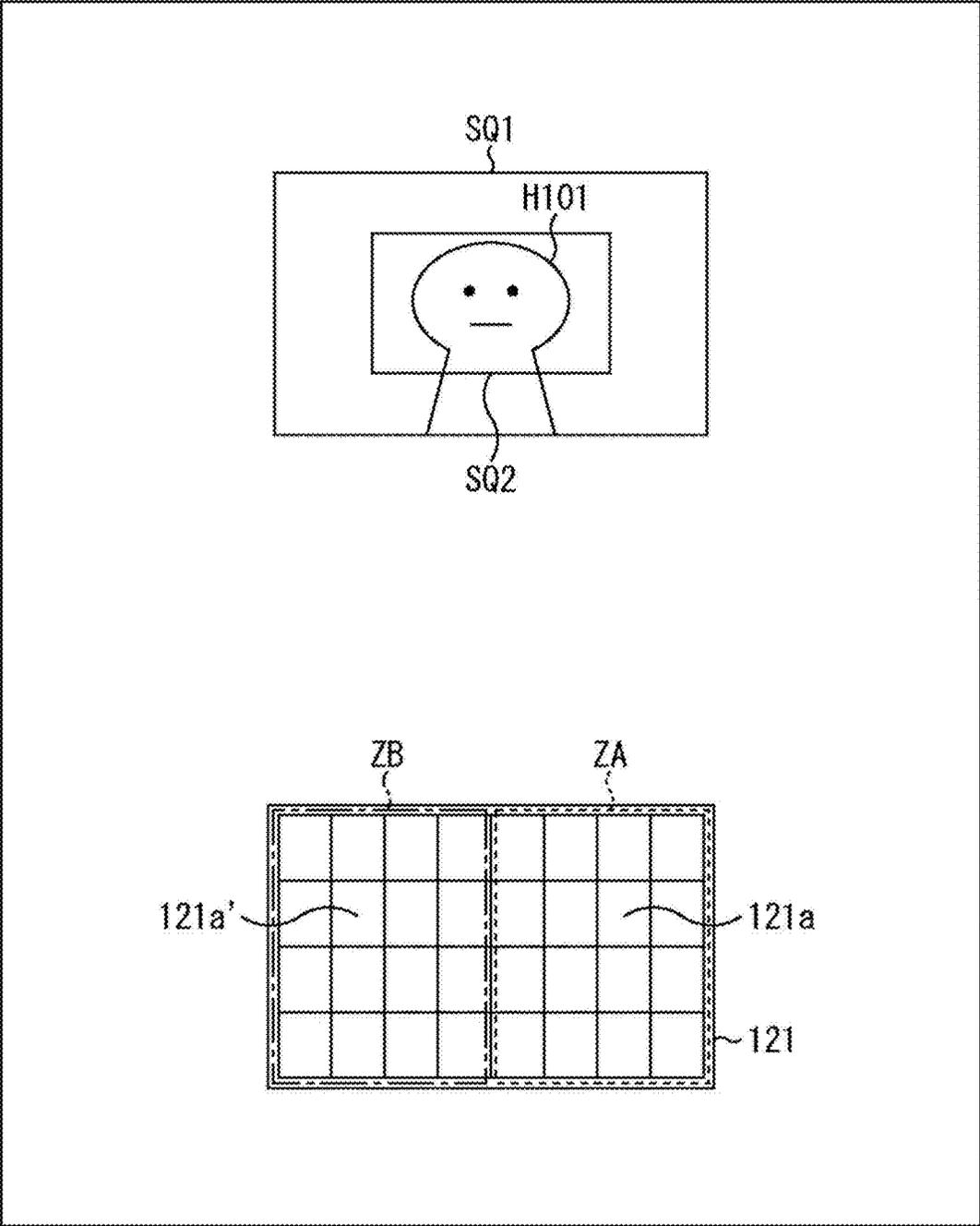


FIG. 18

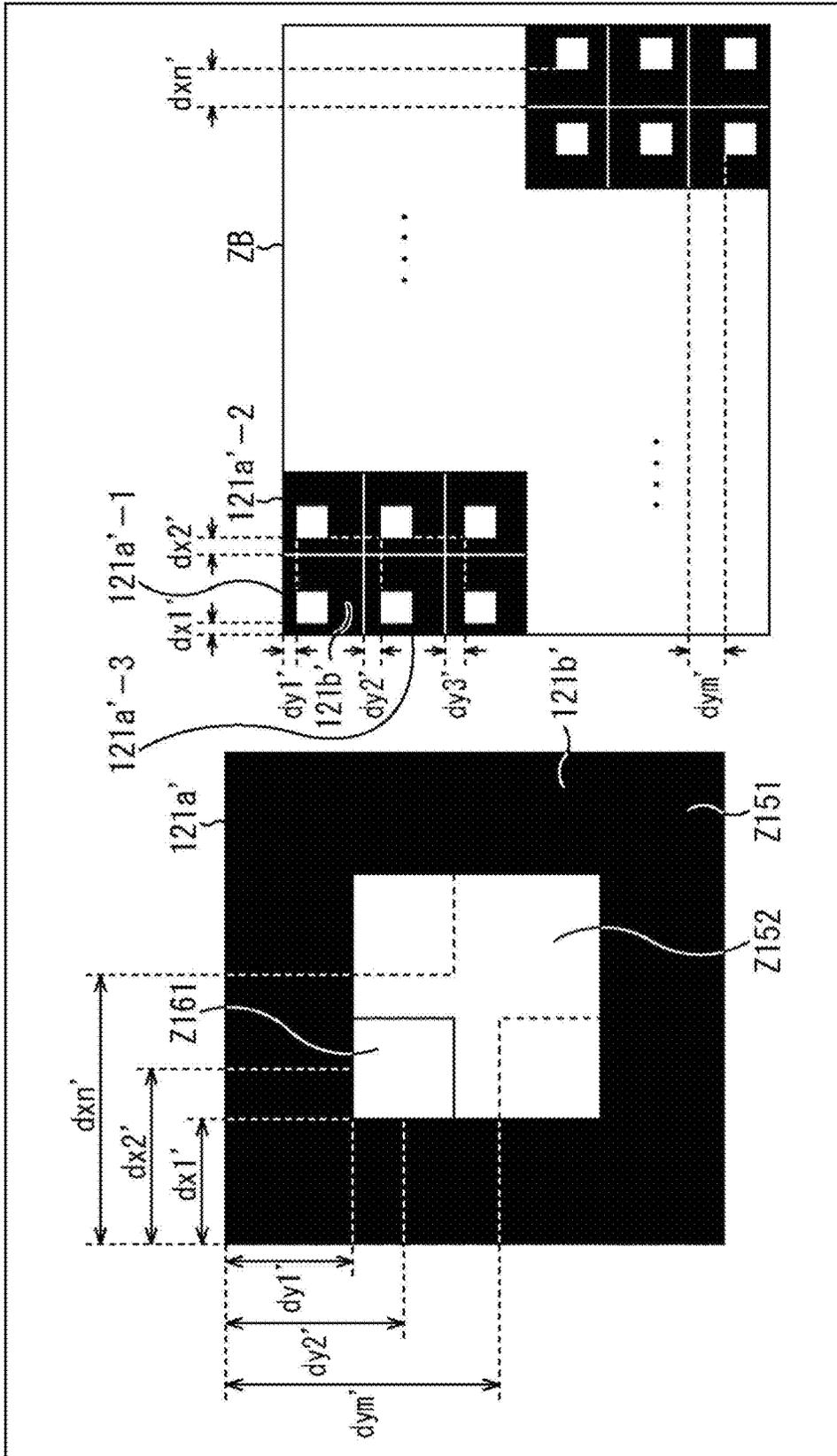


FIG. 20

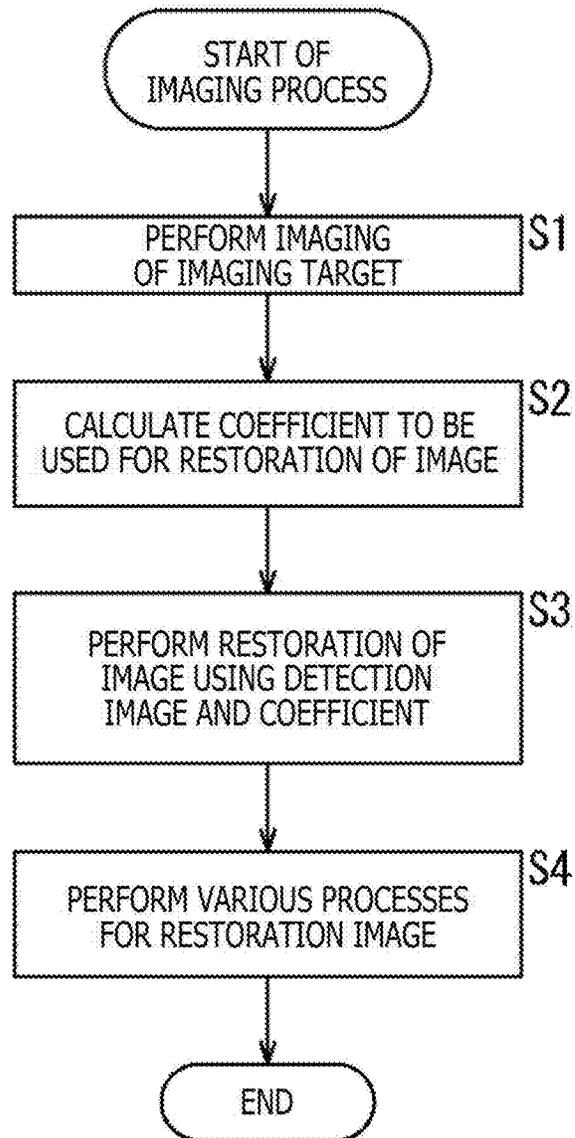


FIG. 21

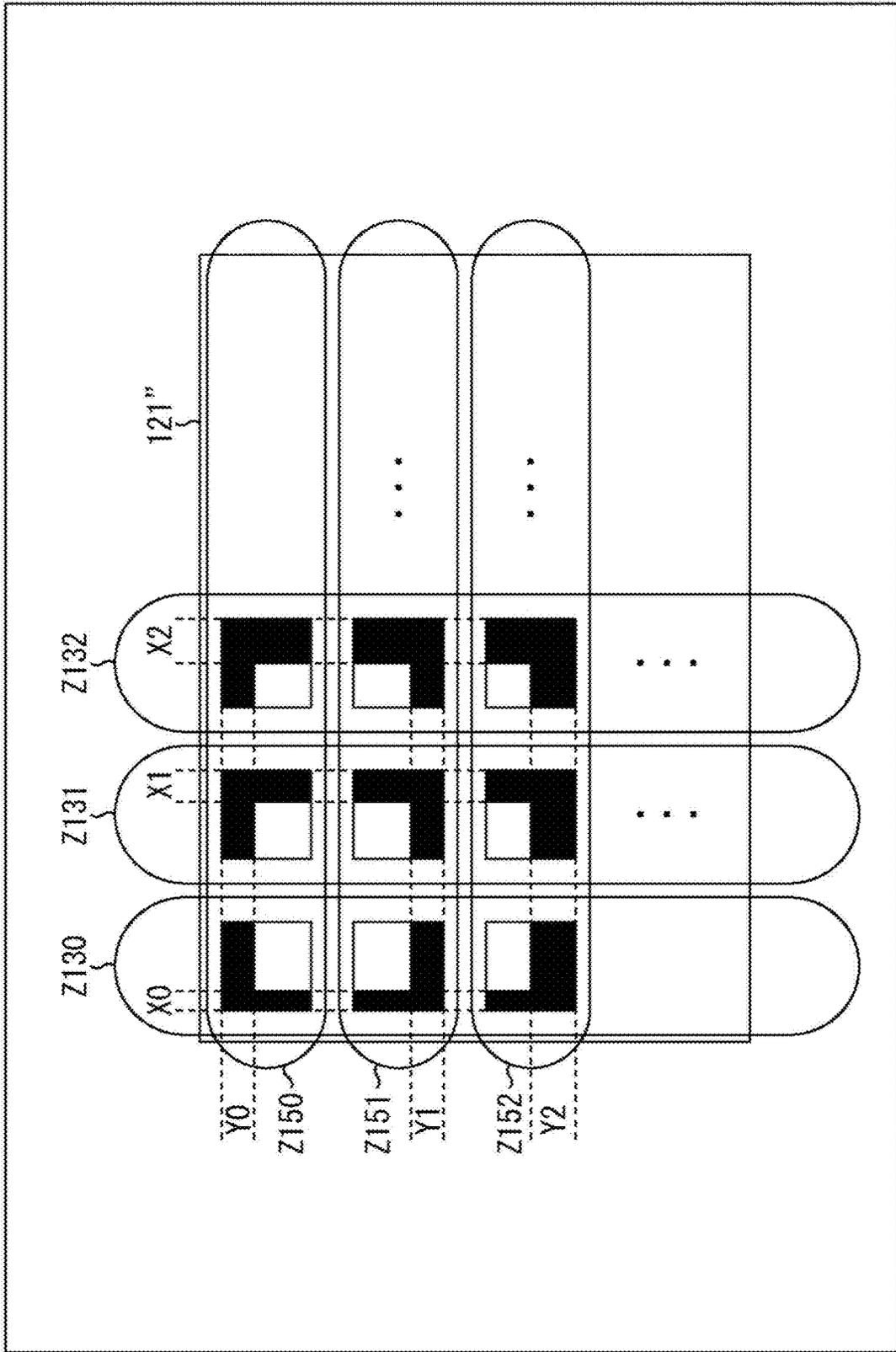


FIG. 22

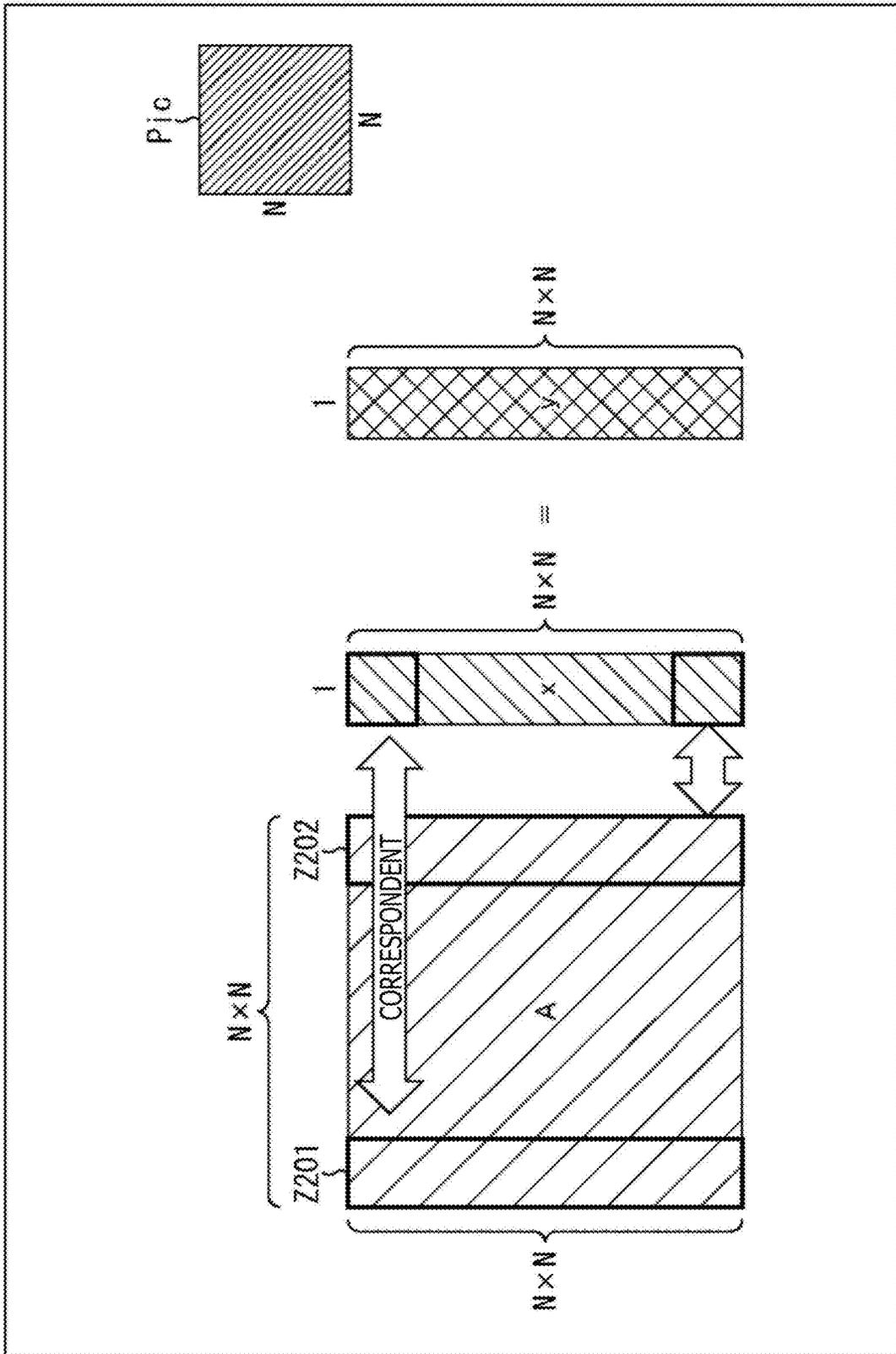


FIG. 23

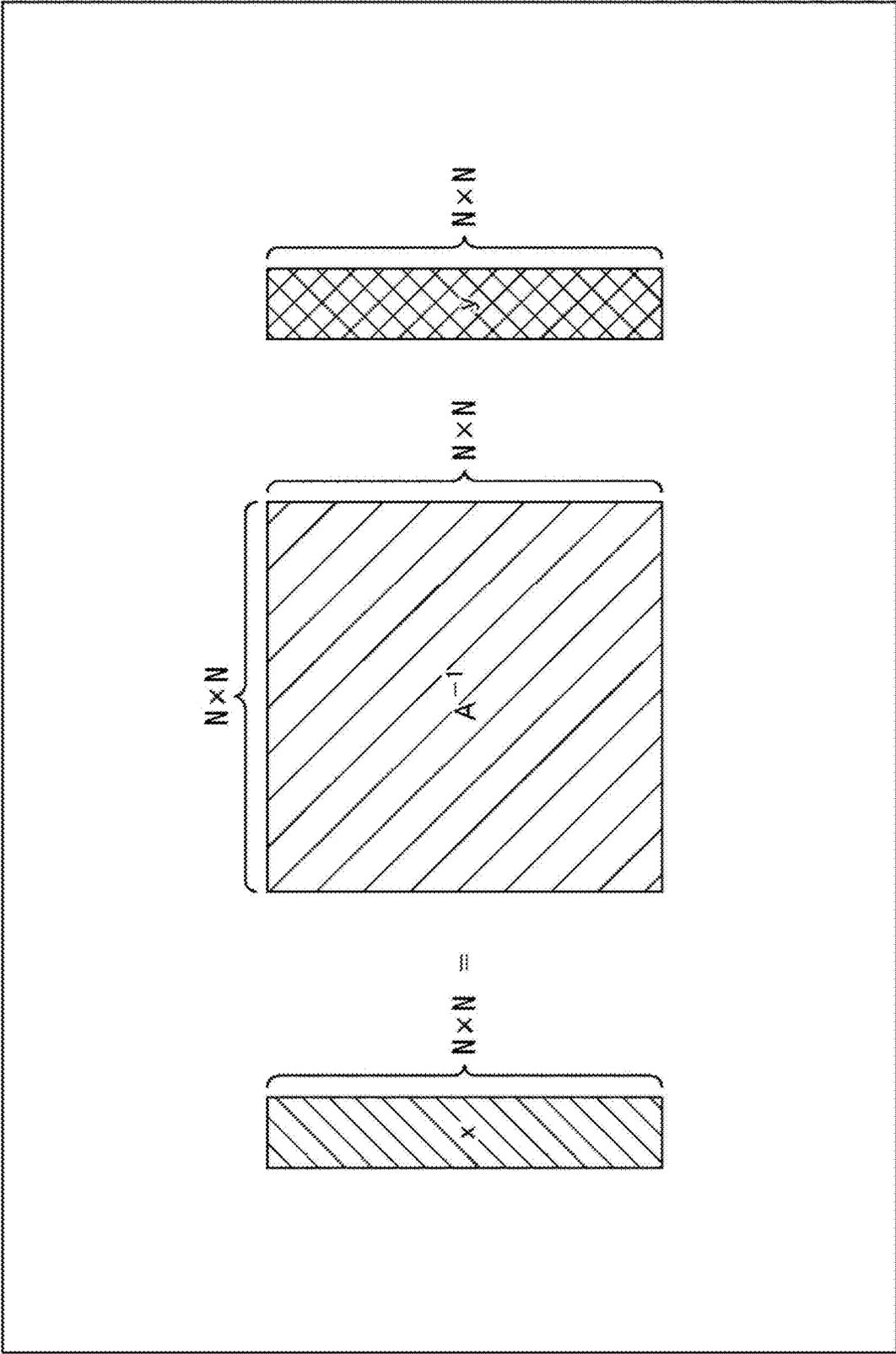


FIG. 24

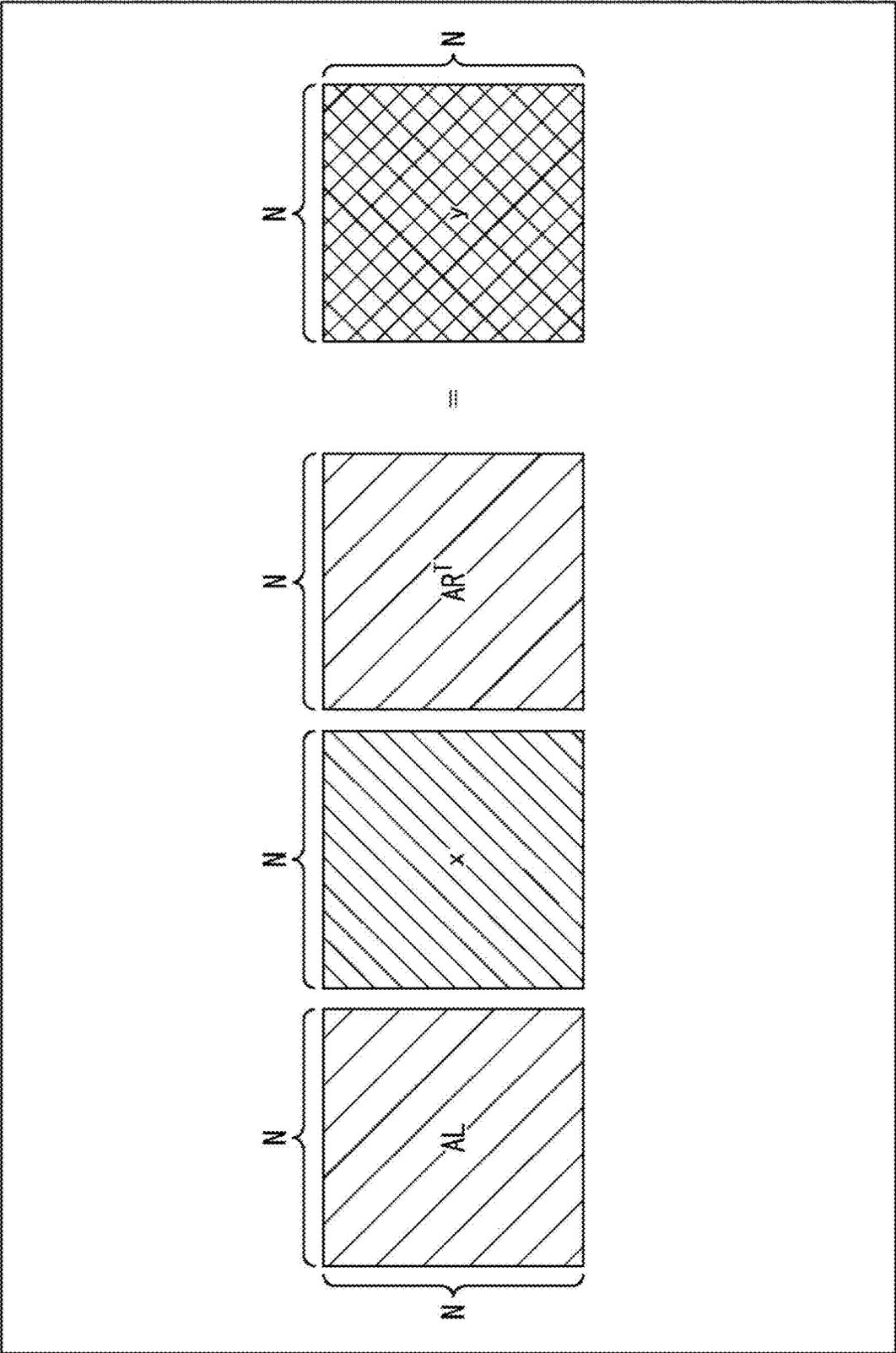


FIG. 25

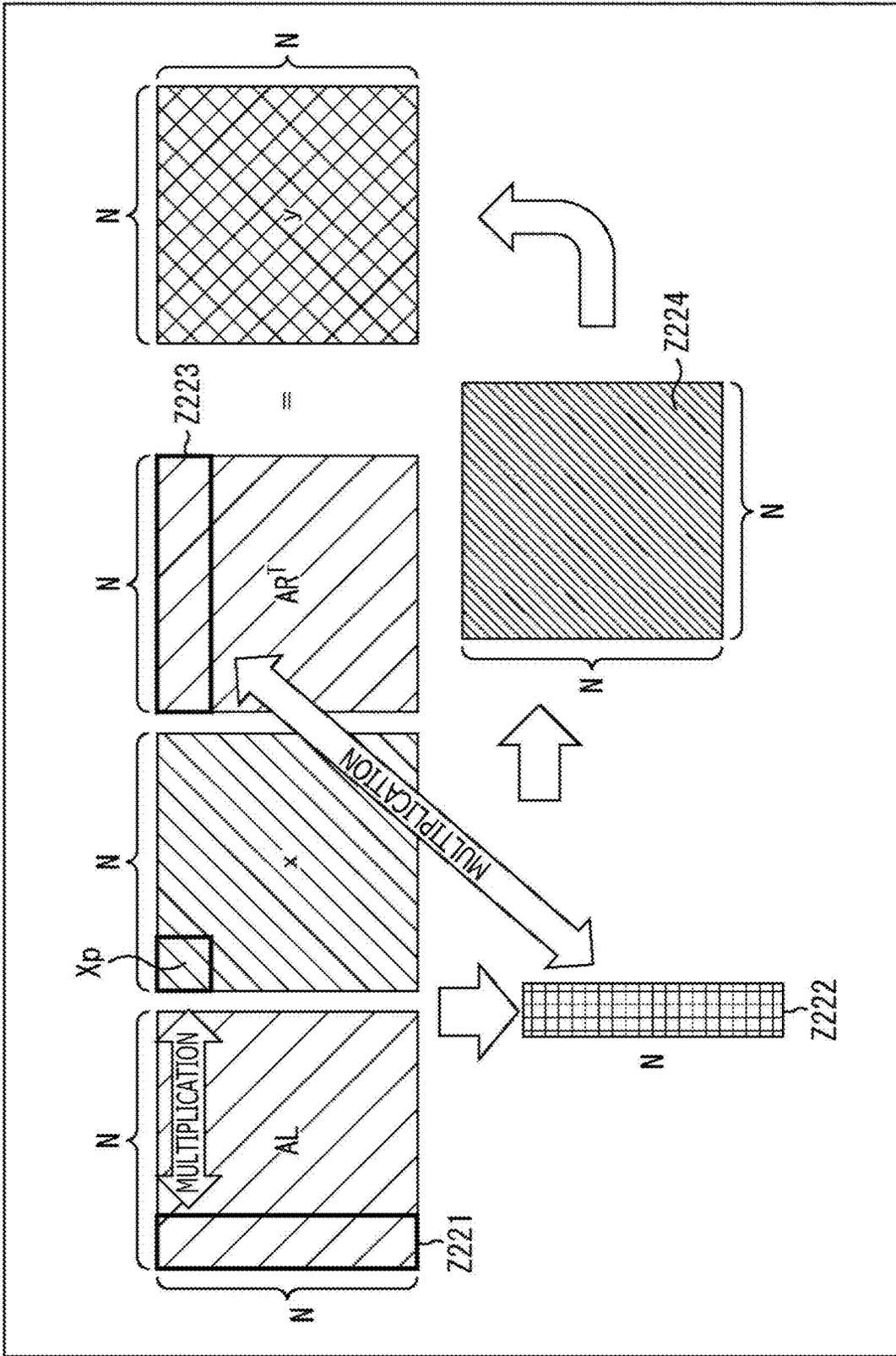


FIG. 26

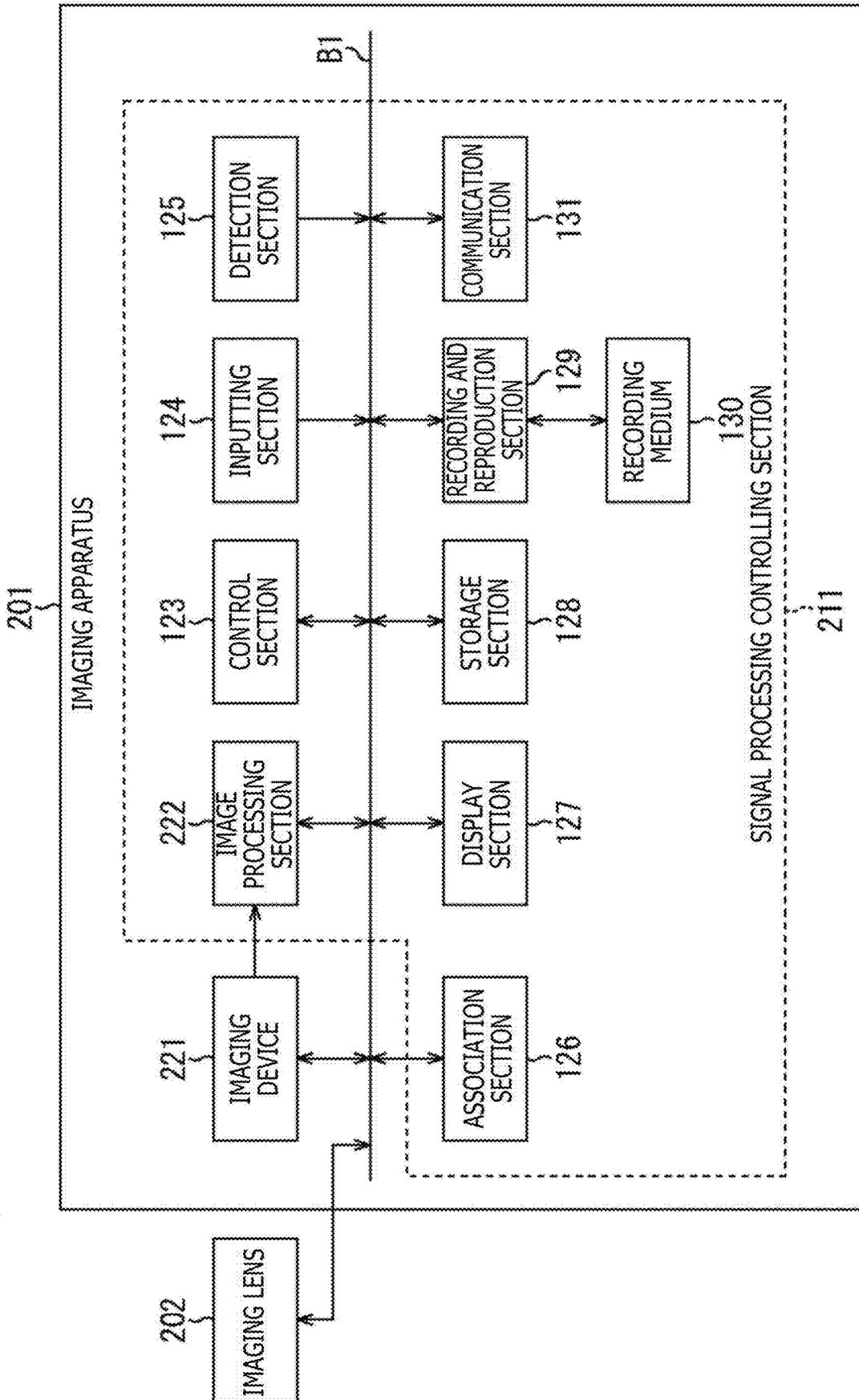


FIG. 27

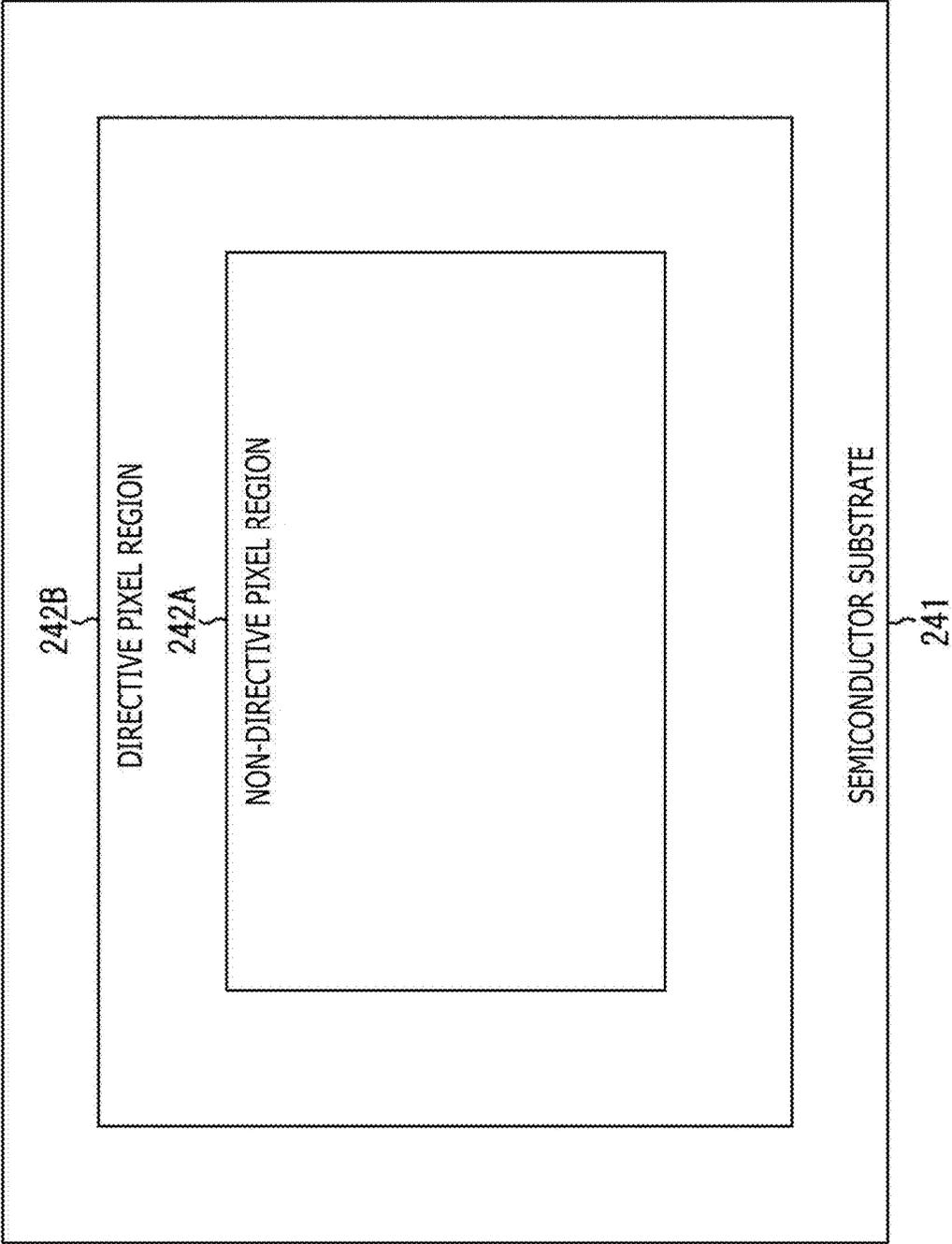


FIG. 28

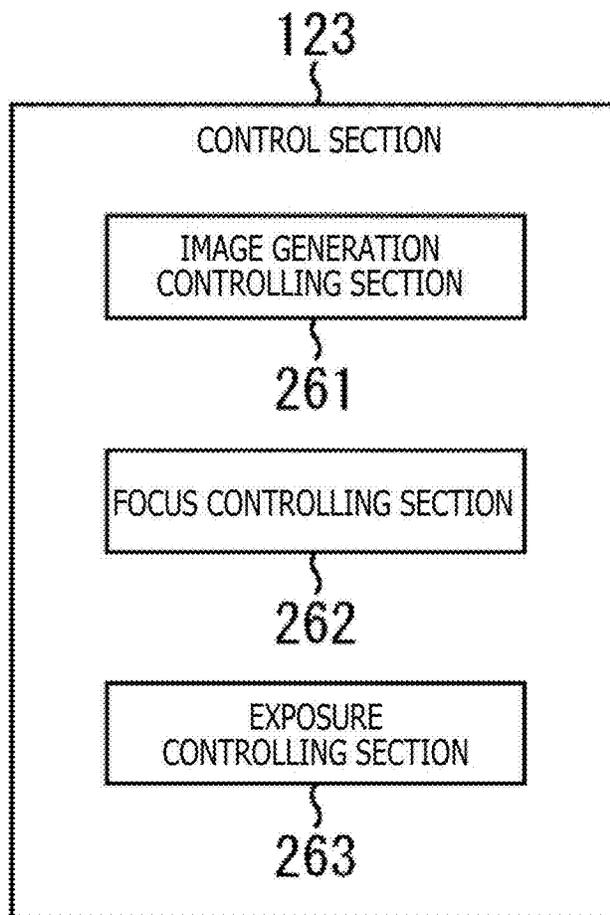


FIG. 29

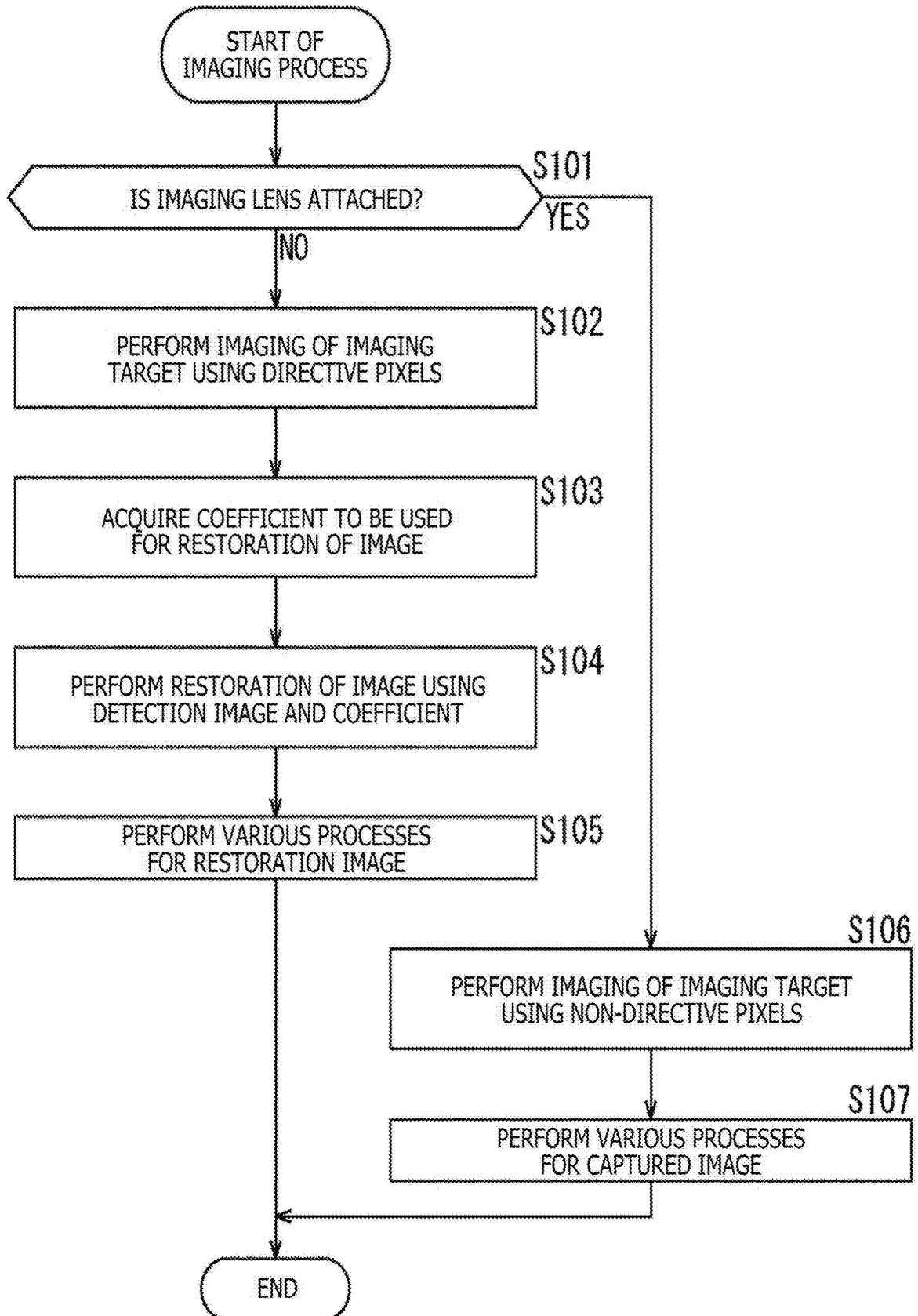
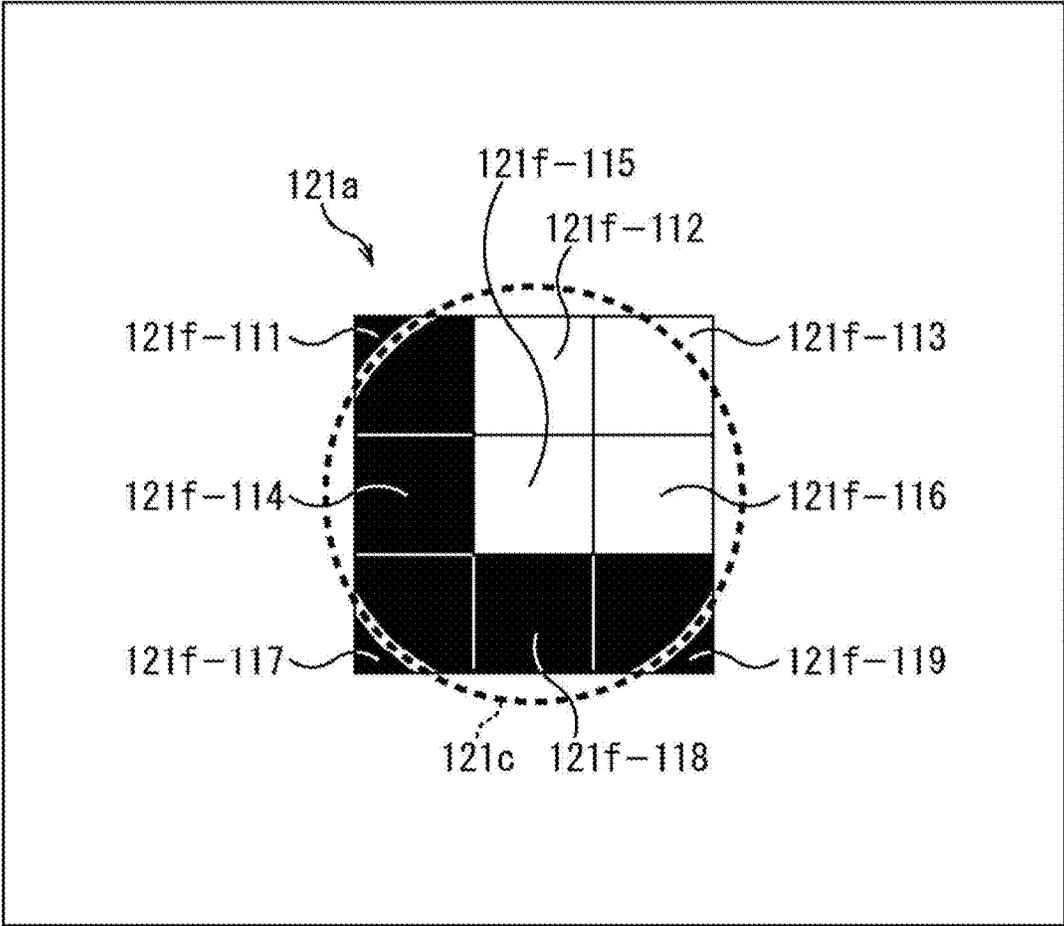


FIG. 30



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IMAGING DEVICE, IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a U.S. National Phase of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2018/038941 filed on Oct. 19, 2018, which claims priority benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2017-202772 filed in the Japan Patent Office on Oct. 19, 2017. Each of the above-referenced applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to an imaging device, an image processing apparatus, an image processing method, and a program, and particularly to an imaging device, an image processing apparatus, an image processing method, and a program by which the versatility of an imaging device is improved.

BACKGROUND ART

Conventionally, an imaging apparatus is proposed in which, without using an imaging lens, light from an imaging target is modulated and imaged by an optical filter including a lattice optical filter or a diffraction grating that covers a light reception face of an imaging device and the image in which an image of the imaging target is formed is restored by a predetermined calculation process (refer to, for example, NPL 1, PTL 1, and PTL 2).

CITATION LIST

Non Patent Literature

[NPL 1]
M. Salman Asif and four others, "Flatcam: Replacing lenses with masks and computation," "2015 IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision Workshop (ICCVW)," 2015, pp. 663-666

PATENT LITERATURE

[PTL 1]
JP-T-2016-510910
[PTL 2]
PCT Patent Publication No. WO2016/123529

SUMMARY

Technical Problem

However, the imaging devices disclosed in NPL 1, PTL 1, and PTL 2 cannot be applied to a conventional imaging apparatus that uses an imaging lens.

The present disclosure has been made in view of such a situation as described above and contemplates improvement of the versatility of an imaging device.

Solution to Problem

An imaging device of a first aspect of the present disclosure includes a semiconductor substrate, a plurality of direc-

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5 tive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration operable to independently set, for incident light from an imaging target, an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and a plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity. Detection signals outputted from the plurality of directive pixel output units and detection signals outputted from the plurality of non-directive pixel output units are selectively used in an image generation process.

10 An image processing apparatus of a second aspect of the present disclosure includes an image generation controlling section configured to control an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device. The imaging device includes a semiconductor substrate, the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration operable to independently set, for incident light from an imaging target, an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

15 An image processing method of the second aspect of the present disclosure includes an image generation controlling step of controlling an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device. The imaging device includes a semiconductor substrate, the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration operable to independently set, for incident light from an imaging target, an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

20 A program of the second aspect of the present disclosure causes a computer to execute a process including an image generation controlling step of controlling an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device. The imaging device includes a semiconductor substrate, the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration operable to independently set, for incident light from an imaging target, an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

25 In the first aspect of the present disclosure, by the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having the configuration operable to independently set, for the incident light from the imaging target, the incident angle directivity indicative of the directivity to the incident angle of the incident light and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

tor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity, the incident light from the imaging target is received.

In the second aspect of the present disclosure, the output image generation process selectively using the detection signals outputted from the plurality of directive pixel output units of the imaging device and the detection signals outputted from the plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device is controlled. The imaging device includes the semiconductor substrate, the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having the configuration operable to independently set, for the incident light from the imaging target, the incident angle directivity indicative of the directivity to the incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the first and second aspects of the present disclosure, the versatility of an imaging device can be improved.

It is to be noted that the advantageous effect described here is not necessarily restrictive, and other advantageous effects described in the present disclosure may be applicable.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a view illustrating a principle of imaging by an imaging apparatus to which the technology of the present disclosure is applied.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram depicting an example of a basic configuration of the imaging apparatus to which the technology of the present disclosure is applied.

FIG. 3 is a view depicting an example of a configuration of a pixel array section of an imaging device of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a view illustrating a first example of a configuration of the imaging device of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a view illustrating a second example of a configuration of the imaging device of FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a view illustrating a principle of generation of incident angle directivity.

FIG. 7 is a view illustrating a change of incident angle directivity utilizing an on-chip lens.

FIG. 8 is a view depicting an example of a type of a light shielding film.

FIG. 9 is a view illustrating design of incident angle directivity.

FIG. 10 is a view illustrating a difference between an on-chip lens and an imaging lens.

FIG. 11 is a view illustrating another difference between an on-chip lens and an imaging lens.

FIG. 12 is a view illustrating a further difference between an on-chip lens and an imaging lens.

FIG. 13 is a view illustrating a relation between an imaging target distance and a coefficient indicative of incident angle directivity.

FIG. 14 is a view illustrating a relation between a narrow angle-of-view pixel and a wide angle-of-view pixel.

FIG. 15 is a view illustrating another relation between a narrow angle-of-view pixel and a wide angle-of-view pixel.

FIG. 16 is a view illustrating a further relation between a narrow angle-of-view pixel and a wide angle-of-view pixel.

FIG. 17 is a view illustrating a difference in image quality between a narrow angle-of-view pixel and a wide angle-of-view pixel.

FIG. 18 is a view illustrating another difference in image quality between a narrow angle-of-view pixel and a wide angle-of-view pixel.

FIG. 19 is a view illustrating an example in which a plurality of pixels of different angles of view is combined.

FIG. 20 is a flow chart illustrating an imaging process by the imaging apparatus of FIG. 2.

FIG. 21 is a view illustrating a reduction method of a processing load.

FIG. 22 is a view illustrating another reduction method of a processing load.

FIG. 23 is a view illustrating a further reduction method of a processing load.

FIG. 24 is a view illustrating a still further reduction method of a processing load.

FIG. 25 is a view illustrating a yet further reduction method of a processing load.

FIG. 26 is a block diagram depicting an example of a configuration of an imaging apparatus according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 27 is a view depicting an example of arrangement of pixels in an imaging device of FIG. 26.

FIG. 28 is a block diagram depicting an example of a functional configuration of a control section of FIG. 26.

FIG. 29 is a flow chart illustrating an imaging process executed by the imaging apparatus of FIG. 26.

FIG. 30 is a view depicting a modification of the imaging device of FIG. 5.

FIG. 31 is a view illustrating a modification of a pixel output unit.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

In the following, preferred embodiments of the present disclosure are described with reference to the accompanying drawings. It is to be noted that components having a substantially same functional configuration are denoted by the same reference signs and overlapping description of them is suitably omitted.

Further, the description is given in the following order.

1. Overview of Imaging Apparatus of Present Disclosure
2. Example of Basic Configuration of Imaging Apparatus of Present Disclosure
3. Embodiment of Present Disclosure
4. Modifications
5. Others

1. Overview of Imaging Apparatus of Present Disclosure

First, an overview of the imaging apparatus of the present disclosure is described.

The imaging apparatus of the present disclosure uses an imaging device 51 in which the detection sensitivity of each pixel has incident angle directivity as depicted in the upper left of FIG. 1. Here, that the detection sensitivity of each pixel has incident angle directivity signifies that the light reception sensitivity characteristic according to the incident angle of incident light to a pixel is made different for each pixel. However, the light reception sensitivity need not be fully different among all pixels but may be same in some of the pixels.

Here, it is assumed that, for example, all imaging targets are a set of point light sources and light is emitted in every

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direction from each point light source. For example, it is assumed that, for example, an imaging target face **31** of an imaging target in the upper left of FIG. **1** includes a point light source PA to a point light source PC and the point light sources PA to PC emit a plurality of rays of light of a light intensity a to a light intensity c around. Further, in the following description, it is assumed that the imaging device **51** includes, at positions Pa to Pc thereof, pixels having incident angle directivities different from one another (hereinafter referred to as pixels Pa to Pc).

In this case, as indicated in the upper left of FIG. **1**, rays of light of a same light intensity emitted from the same point light source enter pixels of the imaging device **51**. For example, rays of light of the light intensity a emitted from the point light source PA individually enter the pixels Pa to Pc of the imaging device **51**. On the other hand, rays of light emitted from a same point light source enter the pixels at incident angles different from one another. For example, rays of light of the point light source PA enter the pixels Pa to Pc at incident angles different from one another.

Here, since the incident angle directivities of the pixels Pa to Pc are different from one another, rays of light of a same light intensity emitted from the same point light source are detected with sensitivities different among the different pixels. As a result, the rays of light of the same light intensity are detected at signal levels different from one another by the different pixels. For example, the detection signal level in regard to a ray of light of the light intensity a from the point light source PA has different values from one another at the pixels Pa to Pc.

Then, the light reception sensitivity level of each pixel for a ray of light from each point light source is calculated by multiplying the light intensity of the ray of light by a coefficient indicative of a light reception sensitivity (namely, incident angle directivity) at the incident angle of the ray of light. For example, the detection signal level of the pixel Pa for a ray of light from the point light source PA is calculated by multiplying the light intensity a of the ray of light of the point light source PA by a coefficient indicative of the incident angle directivity of the pixel Pa at the incident angle of the ray of light to the pixel Pa.

Accordingly, the detection signal levels DA, DB, and DC at the pixels Pc, Pb, and Pa are represented by the following expressions (1) to (3), respectively.

$$DA = \alpha_1 \times a + \beta_1 \times b + \gamma_1 \times c \quad (1)$$

$$DB = \alpha_2 \times a + \beta_2 \times b + \gamma_2 \times c \quad (2)$$

$$DC = \alpha_3 \times a + \beta_3 \times b + \gamma_3 \times c \quad (3)$$

Here, the coefficient α_1 is a coefficient indicative of the incident angle directivity of the pixel Pc at the incident angle of a ray of light from the point light source PA to the pixel Pc, and is set according to the incident angle. Further, $\alpha_1 \times a$ indicates the detection signal level at the pixel Pc for the ray of light from the point light source PA.

The coefficient β_1 is a coefficient indicative of the incident angle directivity of the pixel Pc at the incident angle of a ray of light from the point light source PB to the pixel Pc, and is set according to the incident angle. Further, $\beta_1 \times b$ indicates the detection signal level at the pixel Pc for the ray of light from the point light source PB.

The coefficient γ_1 is a coefficient indicative of the incident angle directivity of the pixel Pc at the incident angle of a ray of light y from the point light source PC to the pixel Pc, and is set according to the incident angle. Further, $\gamma_1 \times c$ indicates

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the detection signal level at the pixel Pc for the ray of light from the point light source PC.

In this manner, the detection signal level DA of the pixel Pa is calculated by the product sum of the light intensities a, b, and c of light rays at the pixel Pc from the point light sources PA, PB, and PC and the coefficients α_1 , β_1 , and γ_1 indicative of the incident angle directivities according to the respective incident angles.

Similarly, the detection signal level DB of the pixel Pb is calculated by the product sum of the light intensities a, b, and c of rays of light at the pixel Pb from the point light sources PA, PB, and PC and the coefficients α_2 , β_2 , and γ_2 indicative of the incident angle directivities according to the respective incident angles as indicated by the expression (2). Further, the detection signal level DC of the pixel Pc is calculated by the product sum of the light intensities a, b, and c of rays of light at the pixel Pa from the point light sources PA, PB, and PC and the coefficients α_3 , β_3 , and γ_3 indicative of the incident angle directivities according to the respective incident angles as indicated by the expression (3).

However, the detection signal levels DA, DB, and DC at the pixels Pa, Pb, and Pc are mixtures of the light intensities a, b, and c of rays of light emitted from the point light sources PA, PB, and PC as indicated by the expressions (1) to (3). Accordingly, as indicated at the upper right of FIG. **1**, the detection signal level at the imaging device **51** is different from the light intensities of the point light sources on the imaging target face **31**. Accordingly, the image obtained by the imaging device **51** is different from an image in which an image of the imaging target face **31** is formed.

On the other hand, by creating simultaneous equations including the expressions (1) to (3) and solving the created simultaneous equations, the light intensities a to c of light rays of the point light sources PA to PC are found. Then, by arranging the pixels having pixel values according to the calculated light intensities a to c in accordance with the arrangement (relative positions) of the point light sources PA to PC, a restoration image in which the image of the imaging target face **31** is formed as depicted in the lower right of FIG. **1** is restored.

It is to be noted that an aggregation of coefficients (for example, the coefficients α_1 , β_1 , and γ_1) for each expression configuring simultaneous equations is hereinafter referred to as coefficient set. Further, an aggregation of a plurality of coefficient sets corresponding to a plurality of expressions included in simultaneous equations (for example, the coefficient set α_1 , β_1 , and γ_1 , coefficient set α_2 , β_2 , and γ_2 and coefficient set α_3 , β_3 , and γ_3) is hereinafter referred to as coefficient set group.

In this manner, it becomes possible to implement an imaging apparatus that includes, as essential components, the imaging device **51** having an incident angle directivity at each pixel without the necessity for an imaging lens, a pinhole and the optical filter disclosed in PTL 1 and NPL 1 (hereinafter referred to as patent document and so forth). As a result, since an imaging lens, a pinhole and the optical filter disclosed in the patent document and so forth do not become essential components, reduction in height of the imaging apparatus, namely, in thickness of the configuration for implementing an imaging function in the entering direction of light, becomes possible.

Further, since the essential component is only the imaging device **51**, it is possible to improve the degree of freedom in design. For example, although, in a conventional imaging apparatus that uses an imaging lens, it is necessary to arrange a plurality of pixels of an imaging device in a two-dimensional array in accordance with a position at

which an image of an imaging target is to be formed by the imaging lens, an imaging apparatus that uses the imaging device **51** does not have the necessity. Therefore, the degree of freedom in arrangement of pixels is improved, and it is possible to freely arrange pixels, for example, within a range into which light from an imaging target enters. Accordingly, it is possible to arrange pixels in a circular range, to arrange pixels in a hollow square region or to arrange pixels dispersedly in a plurality of regions.

Then, by creating such simultaneous equations as indicated by the expressions (1) to (3) given hereinabove using coefficients according to incident angles of rays of light from point light sources on the imaging target face **31** to pixels irrespective of the arrangement of the pixels and solving the simultaneous equations, the light intensity of the light ray from each point light source can be found. Then, by arranging the pixels having the pixel values according to the calculated light intensities of the point light sources in accordance with the arrangement of the point light sources on the imaging target face **31**, a restoration image in which an image of the imaging target face **31** is formed can be restored.

2. Example of Basic Configuration of Imaging Apparatus of Present Disclosure

Now, an example of a basic configuration of the imaging apparatus of the present disclosure is described with reference to FIGS. **2** to **25**.

<Example of Configuration of Imaging Apparatus **101**>

FIG. **2** is a block diagram depicting an example of a configuration of the imaging apparatus **101** that is a basic imaging apparatus to which the technology of the present disclosure is applied.

The imaging apparatus **101** includes an imaging device **121**, a restoration section **122**, a control section **123**, an inputting section **124**, a detection section **125**, an association section **126**, a display section **127**, a storage section **128**, a recording and reproduction section **129**, a recording medium **130**, and a communication section **131**. Further, a signal processing controlling section **111** that performs signal processing, control of the imaging apparatus **101**, and so forth includes the restoration section **122**, the control section **123**, the inputting section **124**, the detection section **125**, the association section **126**, the display section **127**, the storage section **128**, the recording and reproduction section **129**, the recording medium **130**, and the communication section **131**. It is to be noted that the imaging apparatus **101** does not include any imaging lens (imaging lens-free).

Further, the imaging device **121**, the restoration section **122**, the control section **123**, the inputting section **124**, the detection section **125**, the association section **126**, the display section **127**, the storage section **128**, the recording and reproduction section **129**, and the communication section **131** are connected to one another through a bus **B1** such that they perform transmission, reception, and so forth of data through the bus **B1**. It is to be noted that, in order to simplify description, description of the bus **B1** in the case where the components of the imaging apparatus **101** perform transmission, reception, and so forth of data through the bus **B1** is omitted. For example, in the case where the inputting section **124** data supplies to the control section **123** through the bus **B1**, this is described such that the inputting section **124** supplies data to the control section **123**.

The imaging device **121** corresponds to the imaging device **51** described hereinabove with reference to FIG. **1** and is an imaging device that includes pixels having an

incident angle directivity and outputs an image including a detection signal indicative of a detection signal level according to a light amount of incident light to the restoration section **122** or the bus **B1**.

More particularly, the imaging device **121** may be, in a basic structure, an imaging device similar to an imaging device of a general, for example, CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) image sensor or the like. However, the imaging device **121** is different in configuration of pixels configuring a pixel array from a general one and has a configuration that pixels have an incident angle directivity as hereinafter described, for example, with reference to FIGS. **3** to **5**. Further, the imaging device **121** is different in (changes) light reception sensitivity in response to the incident angle of incident light for each pixel and has an incident angle directivity for an incident angle of incident light in a unit of a pixel.

It is to be noted that, since an image outputted from the imaging device **121** is an image including detection signals in which an image of an imaging target is not formed as depicted, for example, in the upper right of FIG. **1** described hereinabove, the imaging target cannot be recognized visually. In other words, although a detection image including detection signals outputted from the imaging device **121** is an aggregation of pixel signals, it is an image on which the imaging target cannot be recognized, even if the user sees, by the user (image on which the imaging target cannot be visually recognized).

Therefore, in the following description, an image including a detection signal where an image of an imaging target is not formed as depicted in the upper right of FIG. **1**, namely, an image captured by the imaging device **121**, is referred to as detection image.

It is to be noted that the imaging device **121** may not be configured as a pixel array and, for example, may be configured as a line sensor. Further, the incident angle directivity need not be all different in a unit of a pixel, but some pixels may have a same incident angle directivity.

The restoration section **122** acquires, from the storage section **128**, a coefficient set group corresponding to an imaging target distance corresponding to a distance from the imaging device **51** to the imaging target face **31** (imaging target face corresponding to a restoration image) in FIG. **1** and corresponding to the coefficients $\alpha 1$ to $\alpha 3$, $\beta 1$ to $\beta 3$, and $\gamma 1$ to $\gamma 3$ described hereinabove. Further, the restoration section **122** creates such simultaneous equations as indicated by the expressions (1) to (3) given hereinabove using detection signal levels of the pixels of a detection image outputted from the imaging device **121** and the acquired coefficient set group. Then, the restoration section **122** solves the created simultaneous equations to calculate pixel values of the pixels configuring the image in which an image of the imaging target depicted at the right lower portion of FIG. **1** is formed. Consequently, an image in which the imaging target can be recognized by visual observation of the user (imaging target can be visually recognized) is restored from the detection image. In the following description, the image restored from the detection image is referred to as restoration image. However, in the case where the imaging device **121** has sensitivity only to light other than that in a visually recognizable frequency band such as ultraviolet light, although also the restored image does not become an image on which an imaging target can be identified as in an ordinary image, also in this instance, the restored image is referred to as restoration image.

Further, in the following description, a restoration image that is an image in a state in which an image of an imaging

target is formed but is an image before color separation such as a demosaic process or a synchronization process is referred to as RAW image, and a detection image captured by the imaging device **121** is distinguished not as a RAW image although it is an image according to an array of color filters.

It is to be noted that the number of pixels of the imaging device **121** and the pixel number of pixels that configure a restoration image need not necessarily be equal to each other.

Further, the restoration section **122** performs, for a restoration image, a demosaic process, γ correction, white balance adjustment, a conversion process into a predetermined compression format and so forth as occasion demands. Then, the restoration section **122** outputs the restoration image to the bus **B1**.

The control section **123** includes, for example, various types of processors and controls the components of the imaging apparatus **101**.

The inputting section **124** includes inputting devices for performing an operation of the imaging apparatus **101** and inputting of data to be used for processing and so forth (for example, keys, switches, buttons, dials, a touch panel, a remote controller, and so forth). The inputting section **124** outputs an operation signal, inputted data, and so forth to the bus **B1**.

The detection section **125** includes various types of sensors and so forth to be used for detection of a state of the imaging apparatus **101** and an imaging target. For example, the detection section **125** includes an acceleration sensor and a gyro sensor for detecting the posture or a movement of the imaging apparatus **101**, a position detection sensor for detecting the position of the imaging apparatus **101** (for example, a GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) receiver and so forth), a distance measurement sensor for detecting an imaging target distance and so forth. The detection section **125** outputs a signal representative of a result of the detection to the bus **B1**.

The association section **126** performs association between a detection image obtained by the imaging device **121** and metadata corresponding to the detection image. The metadata includes, for example, a coefficient set group, an imaging target distance and so forth for restoring a restoration image using a detection image that is a target.

It is to be noted that the method for associating a detection image and metadata with each other is not specifically restricted if it can specify a corresponding relation between the detection image and the metadata. For example, by applying metadata to image data including a detection image, by applying a same ID to a detection image and metadata, or by recording a detection image and metadata into a same recording medium **130**, the detection image and the metadata can be associated with each other.

The display section **127** includes, for example, a display and performs display of various kinds of information (for example, a restoration image or the like). It is to be noted that also it is possible to configure the display section **127** such that it includes a sound outputting section such as a speaker to perform outputting of sound.

The storage section **128** includes one or more storage devices such as a ROM (Read Only Memory), a RAM (Random Access Memory) and a flash memory and stores a program, data and so forth used, for example, in processing of the imaging apparatus **101**. For example, the storage section **128** stores coefficient set groups corresponding to the coefficients $\alpha 1$ to $\alpha 3$, $\beta 1$ to $\beta 3$, and $\gamma 1$ to $\gamma 3$ described hereinabove in an associated relation with various imaging target distances. More particularly, for each of imaging

target faces **31** at different imaging target distances, the storage section **128** stores a coefficient set group including coefficients for the pixels **121a** of the imaging device **121** with respect to each point light source set on the imaging target face **31**.

The recording and reproduction section **129** performs recording of data into the recording medium **130** and reproduction (reading out) of data recorded in the recording medium **130**. For example, the recording and reproduction section **129** records a restoration image into the recording medium **130** and reads out the restoration image from the recording medium **130**. Further, the recording and reproduction section **129** records a detection image and corresponding metadata into the recording medium **130** and reads out them from the recording medium **130**.

The recording medium **130** is one of a combination of, for example, an HDD (Hard Disk Drive), an SSD (Solid State Drive), a magnetic disk, an optical disk, a magneto-optical disk, a semiconductor memory, and so forth.

The communication section **131** performs communication with a different apparatus (for example, a different imaging apparatus, a signal processing apparatus or the like) by a predetermined communication method. It is to be noted that the communication method of the communication section **131** may be any of wired communication and wireless communication. Also it is possible for the communication section **131** to be made ready for a plurality of communication methods.

First Example of Configuration of Imaging Device **121**

Now, a first example of a configuration of the imaging device **121** of the imaging apparatus **101** of FIG. **2** is described with reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**.

FIG. **3** depicts a front elevational view of part of the pixel array section of the imaging device **121**. It is to be noted that, although FIG. **3** depicts an example of a case in which the number of pixels of the pixel array section is vertical six pixels \times horizontal six pixels, the pixel number of the pixel array section is not limited to this.

In the imaging device **121** of FIG. **3**, a light shielding film **121b** that is one of modulation elements is provided for each pixel **121a** such that it covers part of a light reception region (light reception face) of the photodiode of the pixel **121a**, and incident light entering each pixel **121a** is optically modulated in response to an incident angle. Then, for example, by providing the light shielding film **121b** for a range different for each pixel **121a**, the light reception sensitivity to the incident angle of incident light becomes different for each pixel **121a**, and the pixels **121a** have incident angle directivities different from one another.

For example, the pixel **121a-1** and the pixel **121a-2** are different from each other in range over which the light reception region of the photodiode is shielded by the light shielding film **121b-1** and the light shielding film **121b-2** (different in at least one of the shielded region (position) and the shielded area). In particular, in the pixel **121a-1**, the light shielding film **121b-1** is provided such that it shields a left side portion of the light reception region of the photodiode with a predetermined width. On the other hand, in the pixel **121a-2**, the light shielding film **121b-2** is provided such that it shields a right side portion of the light reception region with a predetermined width. It is to be noted that the width over which the light reception region of the photodiode is shielded by the light shielding film **121b-1** and the width over which the light reception region of the photodiode is

shielded by the light shielding film **121b-2** may be different from each other or may be equal to each other. Also in the other pixels **121a**, the light shielding films **121b** are arrayed at random in the pixel array such that the pixels are shielded over the ranges of the light reception regions different from one another.

It is to be noted that, as the ratio at which the light shielding film **121b** covers the light reception region of a pixel increases, the amount of light that can be received by the photodiode decreases. Accordingly, the area of the light shielding film **121b** is preferably made an area of such a degree that a desired light amount can be assured, and for example, the area may be restricted such that it is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ the light reception region in the maximum. This makes it possible to assure a light amount equal to or greater than a desired amount. However, if a non-shielded range of a width corresponding to the wavelength of light to be received is provided for each pixel, then it is possible to receive a minimal light amount. That is, for example, in the case of a B pixel (blue pixel), although the wavelength is approximately 500 nm, it is possible to receive a minimal light amount if it is not shielded to an extent of the width corresponding to the wavelength or more.

An upper stage of FIG. 4 is a side elevational sectional view of the first configuration example of the imaging device **121**, and a middle stage of FIG. 4 is a top plan view of the first configuration example of the imaging device **121**. Further, the side elevational sectional view at the upper stage of FIG. 4 is an AB cross section at the middle stage of FIG. 4. Further, a lower stage of FIG. 4 depicts an example of a circuit configuration of the imaging device **121**.

In the imaging device **121** at the upper stage of FIG. 4, incident light enters from above to below in the figure. The pixels **121a-1** and **121a-2** adjacent each other have a wiring layer **Z12** in a lowermost layer in the figure and a photoelectric conversion layer **Z11** is provided on the wiring layer **Z12** such that they are configured as those of the so-called backside illumination type.

It is to be noted that, in the case where there is no necessity to distinguish the pixels **121a-1** and **121a-2** from each other, each of them is referred to merely as pixel **121a** with the number at the end of the reference sign omitted. In the following description of the specification, also other components are sometimes denoted by reference signs with the number at the end of the reference sign omitted.

Further, in FIG. 4, only a side elevational view and a top plan view for two pixels configuring the pixel array of the imaging device **121** are depicted, and needless to say, although a greater number of pixels **121a** are arranged, illustration of them is omitted.

Further, the pixels **121a-1** and **121a-2** include photodiodes **121e-1** and **121e-2** in the photoelectric conversion layer **Z11**, respectively. Further, on the photodiodes **121e-1** and **121e-2**, on-chip lenses **121c-1** and **121c-2** and color filters **121d-1** and **121d-2** are stacked from above, respectively.

The on-chip lenses **121c-1** and **121c-2** condense incident light on the photodiodes **121e-1** and **121e-2**.

The color filters **121d-1** and **121d-2** are optical filters each of which transmits light of a specific wavelength such as, for example, red, green, blue, infrared, or white. It is to be noted that, in the case of white, the color filters **121d-1** and **121d-2** may be transparent filters or may not be provided.

On a boundary between pixels in the photoelectric conversion layer **Z11** of the pixels **121a-1** and **121a-2**, light shielding films **121g-1** to **121g-3** are formed and suppress

incident light L from entering an adjacent pixel as depicted, for example, in FIG. 4 thereby to suppress occurrence of crosstalk.

Further, as depicted at the upper and middle stages of FIG. 4, the light shielding films **121b-1** and **121b-2** shield part of a light reception face S as viewed from above. In the light reception face S of the photodiodes **121e-1** and **121e-2** of the pixels **121a-1** and **121a-2**, different ranges are shielded by the light shielding films **121b-1** and **121b-2**, and consequently, incident angle directivities different from each other are set independently for each pixel. However, the range to be shielded need not be differ among all pixels **121a** of the imaging device **121**, and pixels **121a** that are shielded over a same range may exist partly.

It is to be noted that, as depicted at the upper stage of FIG. 4, the light shielding film **121b-1** and the light shielding film **121g-1** are connected to each other and are configured in an L shape as viewed from the side. Similarly, the light shielding film **121b-2** and the light shielding film **121g-2** are connected to each other and are configured in an L shape as viewed from the side. Further, the light shielding film **121b-1**, the light shielding film **121b-2**, and the light shielding films **121g-1** to **121g-3** include metal and, for example, include tungsten (W), aluminum (Al) or an alloy of Al and copper (Cu). Further, the light shielding film **121b-1**, the light shielding film **121b-2**, and the light shielding films **121g-1** to **121g-3** may be formed simultaneously from a metal same as that of wires by a process same as a process by which the wires are formed in a semiconductor process. It is to be noted that the film thicknesses of the light shielding film **121b-1**, the light shielding film **121b-2**, and the light shielding films **121g-1** to **121g-3** may not be a same thickness depending upon the position.

Further as depicted at the lower stage of FIG. 4, the pixel **121a** includes a photodiode **161** (corresponding to the photodiode **121e**), a transfer transistor **162**, an FD (Floating Diffusion) portion **163**, a selection transistor **164**, an amplification transistor **165** and a reset transistor **166** and is connected to a current source **168** through a vertical signal line **167**.

The photodiode **161** is grounded at the anode electrode thereof and connected at the cathode electrode thereof to the gate electrode of the amplification transistor **165** through the transfer transistor **162**.

The transfer transistor **162** is driven in accordance with a transfer signal TG. If the transfer signal TG supplied to the gate electrode of the transfer transistor **162** becomes the high level, then the transfer transistor **162** is turned on. Consequently, charge accumulated in the photodiode **161** is transferred to the FD portion **163** through the transfer transistor **162**.

The amplification transistor **165** serves as an inputting portion of a source follower circuit that is a reading out circuit for reading out a signal obtained by photoelectric conversion by the photodiode **161**, and outputs a pixel signal of a level according to the charge accumulated in the FD portion **163** to the vertical signal line **167**. In particular, the amplification transistor **165** is connected at the drain terminal thereof to the power supply VDD and connected at the source terminal thereof to the vertical signal line **167** through the selection transistor **164** such that it cooperates with the current source **168** connected at one end of the vertical signal line **167** to configure a source follower.

The FD portion **163** is a floating diffusion region having charge capacitance C1 provided between the transfer transistor **162** and the amplification transistor **165** and temporarily accumulates charge transferred from the photodiode

161 through the transfer transistor 162. The FD portion 163 is a charge detection portion for converting charge into a voltage, and the charge accumulated in the FD portion 163 is converted into a voltage by the amplification transistor 165.

The selection transistor 164 is driven in accordance with a selection signal SEL such that, when the selection signal SEL supplied to the gate electrode thereof becomes the high level, then the selection transistor 164 is turned on to connect the amplification transistor 165 and the vertical signal line 167 to each other.

The reset transistor 166 is driven in accordance with a reset signal RST. For example, if the reset signal RST supplied to the gate electrode of the reset transistor 166 becomes the high level, then the reset transistor 166 is turned on and discharges charge accumulated in the FD portion 163 to the power supply VDD to reset the FD portion 163.

For example, the pixel circuit depicted at the lower stage of FIG. 4 operates in the following manner.

In particular, as first operation, the reset transistor 166 and the transfer transistor 162 are turned on to discharge charge accumulated in the FD portion 163 to the power supply VDD to reset the FD portion 163.

As second operation, the reset transistor 166 and the transfer transistor 162 are turned off to enter an exposure period, within which charge according to the light amount of incident light is accumulated by the photodiode 161.

As third operation, the reset transistor 166 is turned on to reset the FD portion 163, whereafter the reset transistor 166 is turned off. By this operation, the FD portion 163 is set to a reference potential.

As fourth operation, the potential of the FD portion 163 in the reset state is outputted as a reference potential from the amplification transistor 165.

As fifth operation, the transfer transistor 162 is turned on and charge accumulated in the photodiode 161 is transferred to the FD portion 163.

As sixth operation, the potential of the FD portion 163 to which the charge of the photodiode is transferred is outputted as a signal potential from the amplification transistor 165.

Then, a signal when the reference potential is subtracted from the signal potential by CDS (correlated double sampling) is outputted as a detection signal (pixel signal) of the pixel 121a. This value of the detection signal (output pixel value) is modulated in accordance with the incident angle of incident light from the imaging target and differs in characteristic (directivity) depending upon the incident angle (has an incident angle directivity).

Second Example of Configuration of Imaging Device 121

FIG. 5 is a view depicting a second example of a configuration of the imaging device 121. At an upper stage of FIG. 5, a side elevational sectional view of a pixel 121a of the imaging device 121 of the second example of a configuration is depicted, and at a middle stage of FIG. 5, a top plan view of the imaging device 121 is depicted. Further, the side elevational view at the upper stage of FIG. 5 depicts an AB cross section at the middle stage of FIG. 5. Further, a lower stage of FIG. 5 depicts an example of a circuit configuration of the imaging device 121.

The imaging device 121 of FIG. 5 is different in configuration from the imaging device 121 of FIG. 4 in that four photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 are formed on one pixel 121a and a light shielding film 121g is formed in a region that

separates the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 from each other. In particular, in the imaging device 121 of FIG. 5, the light shielding film 121g is formed in a "+" shape as viewed from above. It is to be noted that such common components as described above are denoted by the same reference signs to those of FIG. 4 and detailed description of them is omitted.

In the imaging device 121 of FIG. 5, the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 are separated from each other by the light shielding film 121g to prevent occurrence of electric and optical crosstalk between the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4. In other words, the light shielding film 121g of FIG. 5 is provided to prevent crosstalk similarly to the light shielding film 121g of the imaging device 121 of FIG. 4 but not to provide an incident angle directivity.

Further, in the imaging device 121 of FIG. 5, one FD portion 163 is shared by the four photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4. A lower stage of FIG. 5 depicts an example of a circuit configuration in which the one FD portion 163 is shared by the four photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4. It is to be noted that description of the same components at the lower stage of FIG. 5 as those at the lower stage of FIG. 4 is omitted.

At the lower stage of FIG. 5, the circuit configuration is different from the circuit configuration at the lower stage of FIG. 4 in that, in place of the photodiode 161 (corresponding to the photodiode 121e at the upper stage of FIG. 4) and the transfer transistor 162, photodiodes 161-1 to 161-4 (corresponding to the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 at the upper stage of FIG. 5) and transfer transistors 162-1 to 162-4 are provided and the FD portion 163 is shared.

By such a configuration as just described, charge accumulated in the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 is transferred to the common FD portion 163 provided at the connection portion between the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 and the gate electrode of the amplification transistor 165 and having a predetermined capacitance. Then, a signal according to the level of the charge held in the FD portion 163 is read out as a detection signal (pixel signal) (it is to be noted, however, that a CDS process is performed as described above).

Therefore, charge accumulated in the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 can selectively contribute in various combinations to an output of the pixel 121a, namely, to the detection signal. In particular, by configuring the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 such that charge can be read out from them independently of each other and making the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 that contribute to the output (degrees with which the photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 contribute to the output) different from each other, a different incident angle directivity can be obtained.

For example, by transferring charge of the photodiode 121f-1 and the photodiode 121f-3 to the FD portion 163 and adding signals obtained by reading out the charge, an incident angle directivity in the leftward and rightward direction can be obtained. Similarly, by transferring charge of the photodiode 121f-1 and the photodiode 121f-2 to the FD portion 163 and adding signals obtained by reading out the charge, an incident angle directivity in the upward and downward direction can be obtained.

Further, a signal obtained based on charge selectively read out independently from the four photodiodes 121f-1 to 121f-4 becomes a detection signal corresponding to one pixel configuring a detection image.

It is to be noted that the contribution of (charge of) each photodiode 121f to the detection signal can be implemented not only, for example, by whether or not charge (detection value) of each photodiode 121f is to be transferred to the FD portion 163 but also by resetting the charge accumulated in

the photodiodes **121f** before the charge is transferred to the FD portion **163** using an electronic shutter function. For example, if the charge of a photodiode **121f** is reset immediately before transfer to the FD portion **163**, then the photodiode **121f** does not at all contribute to the detection signal. On the other hand, by providing a period of time between resetting of charge of a photodiode **121f** and transfer of the charge to the FD portion **163**, the photodiode **121f** partially contributes to the detection signal.

As described above, in the case of the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**, by changing the combination of those of the four photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4** that are to be used for a detection signal, a different incident angle directivity can be provided to each pixel. Further, the detection signal outputted from each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5** has a value (output pixel value) modulated in response to the incident angle of incident light from an imaging target, and the characteristic (directivity) differs (has a different incident angle directivity) depending upon the incident angle.

It is to be noted that a unit with which a detection signal corresponding to one pixel of a detection image is herein-after referred to as pixel output unit. The pixel output unit includes at least one or more photodiodes, and normally, each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121** corresponds to one pixel output unit.

For example, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4**, since one photodiode **121e** is provided for each one pixel **121a**, each one pixel output unit includes one photodiode **121e**. In other words, one pixel output unit includes one photodiode **121e**.

Further, by making the light shielding states of the pixels **121a** by the light shielding films **121b** different from each other, the incident angle directivities of the pixel output units can be made different from each other. Further, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4**, the incident light to each pixel **121a** is optically modulated using the light shielding film **121b**, and as a result, from signals outputted from the photodiodes **121e** of the pixels **121a**, a detection signal for one pixel of the detection image that reflects an incident angle directivity is obtained. In other words, the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4** includes a plurality of pixel output units for receiving incident light from an imaging target, which enters without the intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, and each of the pixel output units includes one photodiode **121e** and a characteristic (incident angle directivity) of incident light from an imaging target to the incident angle is set for each pixel output unit.

On the other hand, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**, since four photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4** are provided for one pixel **121a**, one pixel output unit includes the four photodiodes **121e**. In other words, one pixel output unit includes the four photodiodes **121f**. On the other hand, an individual pixel output unit is not configured from a single substance of each photodiode **121e**.

Further, by making the photodiodes **121f** that contribute to a detection signal from among the four photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4** are made different for each pixel **121a** as described above, the incident angle directivity for each pixel output unit becomes different. In other words, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**, a range that does not contribute to an output (detection signal) among the four photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4** functions similarly to the shielded region. Then, by a combination of signals outputted from the photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4**, a detection signal for one pixel of a detection image that reflects an incident angle directivity is obtained. In particular, the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**

includes a plurality of pixel output units for receiving incident light from an imaging target, which enters without the intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, and each pixel output unit includes a plurality of photodiodes (for example, the photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4**) and, by making (the degree of) the photodiodes that contribute to an output different, characteristics (incident angle directivities) of the pixel output units of incident light from an imaging target to the incident angle become different from each other.

It is to be noted that, since, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**, incident light enters all of the photodiodes **121f-1** to **121f-4** without being optically modulated, the detection signal is not a signal obtained by optical modulation. Further, in the following description, the photodiode **121f** that does not contribute to a detection signal is referred to also as photodiode **121f** that does not contribute to a pixel output unit or an output.

It is to be noted that, while FIG. **5** depicts an example in which the light reception face of a pixel output unit (pixel **121a**) is equally divided into four and photodiodes **121f** having a light reception face of an equal magnitude are arranged in each pixel output unit, namely, an example in which a photodiode is equally divided into four, the dividing number and the dividing position of a photodiode can be set arbitrarily.

For example, a photodiode need not necessarily be divided equally, and the dividing position of the photodiode may be made different for each pixel output unit. This makes it possible to make the incident angle directivity different in different pixel output units even if the photodiodes **121f** at same positions are made contribute to an output between a plurality of pixel output units. Further, for example, by making the dividing number different between different pixel output units, it becomes possible to set the incident angle directivity more freely. Furthermore, for example, both the dividing number and the dividing position may be made different between different pixel output units.

Further, both the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4** and the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5** are configured such that each pixel output unit can set an incident angle directivity independently. Meanwhile, the imaging apparatus disclosed in NPL 1, PTL 1, and PTL 2 described hereinabove are not configured such that each pixel output unit of an imaging device can set an incident angle directivity independently. It is to be noted that, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4**, the incident angle directivity of each pixel output unit is set by the light shielding film **121b** upon manufacturing. On the other hand, in the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5**, although the dividing number or the dividing position of a photodiode of each pixel output unit is set upon manufacturing, the incident angle directivity of each pixel output unit (combination of photodiodes that are made contribute to an output) can be set at the time of use (for example, at the time of imaging). It is to be noted that both the imaging device **121** of FIG. **4** and the imaging device **121** of FIG. **5** need not have a configuration for causing all pixel output units to have an incident angle directivity.

It is to be noted that, as described hereinabove, although each pixel of an imaging device usually corresponds to one pixel output unit, one pixel output unit sometimes includes a plurality of pixels. The following description is given assuming that, unless otherwise specified, each pixel of an imaging device corresponds to one pixel output unit.

<Principle of Generation of Incident Angle Directivity>

The incident angle directivity of each pixel of the imaging device **121** is generated, for example, by such a principle as depicted in FIG. **6**. It is to be noted that that an upper left

portion and an upper right portion of FIG. 6 are views illustrating a generation principle of an incident angle directivity in the imaging device 121 of FIG. 4, and a left lower portion and a right lower portion of FIG. 6 are views illustrating a generation principle of an incident angle directivity in the imaging device 121 of FIG. 5.

Each of pixels at the upper left portion and the upper right portion of FIG. 6 includes one photodiode 121e. In contrast, each of pixels at the left lower portion and the right lower portion of FIG. 6 includes two photodiodes 121f. It is to be noted that, although an example in which one pixel includes two photodiodes 121f is depicted here, this is for the convenience of description, and the number of photodiodes 121f provided in one pixel may be any other number.

In the pixel at the upper left portion of FIG. 6, the light shielding film 121b-11 is formed such that it shields a right half of the light reception face of the photodiode 121e-11. Meanwhile, in the pixel at the upper right portion of FIG. 6, the light shielding film 121b-12 is formed such that it shields a left half of the light reception face of the photodiode 121e-12. It is to be noted that a chain line in the figure is an auxiliary line that passes the center of the light reception face of the photodiode 121e in the horizontal direction and is perpendicular to the light reception face.

For example, at the pixel at the upper left portion of FIG. 6, incident light from the upper right direction having an incident angle 61 to the chain line in the figure is liable to be received by a left half range of the photodiode 121e-11 that is not shielded by the light shielding film 121b-11. In contrast, incident light from the upper left direction having an incident angle 62 to the chain line in the figure is less liable to be received by the left half range of the photodiode 121e-11 that is not shielded by the light shielding film 121b-11. Accordingly, the pixel at the upper left portion of FIG. 6 has an incident angle directivity that is high in light reception sensitivity to incident light from the upper right of the figure but is low in light reception sensitivity to incident light from the upper left.

On the other hand, for example, in the pixel at the upper right portion of FIG. 6, incident light from the upper right direction having an incident angle 61 is less liable to be received by the left half range of the photodiode 121e-12 that is shielded by the light shielding film 121b-12. In contrast, incident light from the upper left direction having an incident angle 62 is liable to be received by the right half range of the photodiode 121e-12 that is not shielded by the light shielding film 121b-12. Accordingly, the pixel at the upper right portion of FIG. 6 has an incident angle directivity that it is low in light reception sensitivity to incident light from the upper right of the figure but is high in light reception sensitivity to incident light from the upper left.

Meanwhile, the pixel at the lower left portion of FIG. 6 is configured such that it has photodiodes 121f-11 and 121f-12 on the left and right in the figure and, by reading a detection signal of any one of them, an incident angle directivity is provided without the provision of the light shielding film 121b.

In particular, at the pixel at the lower left portion of FIG. 6, by reading out a signal only of the photodiode 121f-11 provided on the left side in the figure, an incident angle directivity similar to that of the pixel at the upper left portion of FIG. 6 can be obtained. In particular, since incident light from the upper right direction having the incident angle 61 to the chain line in the figure enters the photodiode 121f-11 and a signal corresponding to the reception light amount is read out from the photodiode 121f-11, this contributes to a detection signal to be outputted from this pixel. In contrast,

although incident light from the upper left direction having the incident angle 62 to the chain line in the figure enters the photodiode 121f-12, since it is not read out from the photodiode 121f-12, it does not contribute to a detection signal to be outputted from this pixel.

Similarly, in the case where a pixel includes two photodiodes 121f-13 and 121f-14 like the pixel at the lower right portion of FIG. 6, by reading only a signal of the photodiode 121f-14 provided on the right side in the figure, an incident angle directivity similar to that of the pixel at the upper right portion of FIG. 6 can be obtained. In particular, although incident light from the upper right direction having the incident angle 61 enters the photodiode 121f-13, since a signal is not read out from the photodiode 121f-13, this does not contribute to a detection signal to be outputted from this pixel. In contrast, since incident light from the upper left direction having the incident angle 62 enters the photodiode 121f-14 and a signal corresponding to the received light amount is read out from the photodiode 121f-14, this contributes to a detection signal to be outputted from this pixel.

It is to be noted that, while the pixels at the upper portion of FIG. 6 indicate examples in which a range that is shielded and a range that is not shielded are separated at a central position of the pixel (light reception face of the photodiode 121e) in the horizontal direction, the ranges may be separated at a different position. Further, although the pixels at the lower portion of FIG. 6 indicate examples in which the two photodiodes 121f are separated at a central position of the pixel in the horizontal direction, they may be separated at a different position. By changing the position at which the light shielding ranges or the photodiodes 121f are separated in this manner, it is possible to generate different incident angle directivities from each other.

<Incident Angle Directivity in Configuration Including on-Chip Lens>

Now, an incident angle directivity in a configuration including an on-chip lens 121c is described with reference to FIG. 7.

A graph at an upper stage of FIG. 7 indicates incident angle directivities of pixels at middle and lower stages of FIG. 7. It is to be noted that the axis of abscissa indicates the incident angle θ and the axis of ordinate indicates the detection signal level. It is to be noted that the incident angle θ is defined such that it is 0 degrees where the direction of incident light coincides with a chain line on the left side at the middle stage of FIG. 7 and the incident angle 621 side on the left side at the middle stage of FIG. 7 is the positive direction while the incident angle 622 side on the right side at the middle stage of FIG. 7 is the negative direction. Accordingly, incident light entering the on-chip lens 121c from the upper right has an incident angle greater than that of incident light entering from the upper left. In particular, the incident angle θ increases (increases in the positive direction) as the advancing direction of incident light is inclined to the left and decreases (increases in the negative direction) as the advancing direction of incident light is inclined to the right.

Further, the pixel at the left portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7 is configured such that an on-chip lens 121c-11 that condenses incident light and a color filter 121d-11 that passes light of a predetermined wavelength are added to the pixel at the left portion at the upper stage of FIG. 6. In particular, in this pixel, the on-chip lens 121c-11, color filter 121d-11, light shielding film 121b-11, and photodiode 121e-11 are stacked in order from the entering direction of light in the upper portion in the figure.

Similarly, the pixel at the right portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7, the pixel at the left portion at the lower stage of FIG. 7 and the pixel at the right portion at the lower stage of FIG. 7 are configured such that the on-chip lens **121c-11** and the color filter **121d-11** or an on-chip lens **121c-12** and a color filter **121d-12** are added to the pixel at the right portion at the upper stage of FIG. 6, the pixel at the left portion at the lower stage of FIG. 6 and the pixel at the right portion at the lower stage of FIG. 6, respectively.

In the pixel at the left portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7, the detection signal level (light reception sensitivity) of the photodiode **121e-11** changes in response to the incident angle θ of incident light as indicated by a solid line waveform at the upper state of FIG. 7. In particular, as the incident angle θ that is an angle of incident light to the chain line in the figure increases (as the incident angle θ increases in the positive direction (as the incident angle θ is increased toward the rightward direction in the figure)), the detection signal level of the photodiode **121e-11** increases because light is condensed to a range in which the light shielding film **121b-11** is not provided. In contrast, as the incident angle θ of incident light decreases (as the incident angle θ increases in the negative direction (as the incident angle θ is increased toward the leftward direction in the figure)), the detection signal level of the photodiode **121e-11** decreases because light is condensed to a range in which the light shielding film **121b-11** is provided.

Further, at the pixel at the right portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7, the detection signal level (light reception sensitivity) of the photodiode **121e-12** changes in response to the incident angle θ of incident light as indicated by a broken line waveform at the upper stage of FIG. 7. In particular, as the incident angle θ of incident light increases (as the incident angle θ increases in the positive direction), the detection signal level of the photodiode **121e-12** decreases because light is condensed to a range in which the light shielding film **121b-12** is provided. In contrast, as the incident angle θ of incident light decreases (as the incident angle θ increases in the negative direction), the detection signal level of the photodiode **121e-12** increases because light enters a range in which the light shielding film **121b-12** is not provided.

It is possible to change the solid and broken line waveforms depicted at the upper stage of FIG. 7 in response to the range of the light shielding film **121b**. Accordingly, it is possible to provide incident angle directivities different from each other to pixels in a unit of a pixel through the range of the light shielding film **121b**.

Although the incident angle directivity is a characteristic of the light reception sensitivity of each pixel according to the incident angle θ as described hereinabove, it can be considered that, in regard to the pixels at the middle stage of FIG. 7, this is a characteristic of the light shielding value according to the incident angle θ . In particular, although the light shielding film **121b** shields incident light in a specific direction at a high level, it cannot sufficiently shield incident light from any other direction. The change of the level at which incident light can be shielded gives rise to a different detection signal level according to the incident angle θ as depicted at the upper stage of FIG. 7. Accordingly, if a direction in which incident light to each pixel in a direction in which it can be shielded at the highest level is defined as a light shielding direction of the pixel, then that pixels have incident angle directivities different from each other in a unit of a pixel is, in other words, that different pixels have light shielding directions different from each other in a unit of a pixel.

Further, at the pixel at the left portion at the lower stage of FIG. 7, similarly to the pixel at the left portion at the lower stage of FIG. 6, by using a signal only of the photodiode **121f-11** at the left portion of in the figure, it is possible to obtain an incident angle directivity similar to that of the pixel at the left portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7. In particular, as the incident angle θ of incident light increases (as the incident angle θ increases in the positive direction), the detection signal level increases because light is condensed to a range of the photodiode **121f-11** from which a signal is read out. In contrast, as the incident angle θ of incident light decreases (as the incident angle θ increases in the negative direction), the detection signal level decreases because light is condensed to a range of the photodiode **121f-12** from which a signal is not read out.

Further, similarly, in the case of the pixel at the right portion at the lower stage of FIG. 7, similarly to the pixel at the right portion at the lower stage of FIG. 6, by using a signal only of the photodiode **121f-14** at the right portion in the figure, an incident angle directivity similar to that of the pixel at the right portion at the middle stage of FIG. 7 can be obtained. In particular, as the incident angle θ of incident light increases (as the incident angle θ increases in the positive direction), the detection signal level in a unit of a pixel decreases because light is condensed to a range of the photodiode **121f-13** that does not contribute to an output (detection signal). In contrast, as the incident angle θ of incident light decreases (as the incident angle θ increases in the negative direction), the detection signal level in a unit of a pixel increases because light is condensed to a range of the photodiode **121f-14** that contributes to an output (detection signal).

It is to be noted that, in order to generate an incident angle directivity in a unit of a pixel by causing, in a pixel in which a plurality of photodiodes is provided like the pixel at the lower stage of FIG. 7 such that a photodiode that is to contribute to an output can be changed, each of the photodiodes to have a directivity to an incident angle of incident light, the on-chip lens **121c** is an essential component for each pixel.

It is to be noted that the incident angle directivity preferably has a high degree of randomness in a unit of a pixel. For example, if adjacent pixels have a same incident angle directivity, then there is the possibility that the expressions (1) to (3) given hereinabove or expressions (4) to (6) hereinafter described may become a same expression, and as a result, there is the possibility that the number of expressions may become insufficient for a number of unknowns that become solutions to the simultaneous equations and it may become impossible to calculate pixel values that configure a restoration image.

It is to be noted that, in the following description, an example in a case using a pixel **121a** in which a light shielding film **121b** is used to implement an incident angle directivity like the pixel **121a** of FIG. 4 is described mainly. However, except a case in which the light shielding film **121b** is essentially required, it is basically possible to use a pixel **121a** in which a photodiode is divided to implement an incident angle directivity.

<Configuration of Light Shielding Film>

The foregoing description is directed to an example in which, as depicted in FIG. 3, the light shielding film **121b** of each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121** is configured such that it shields the entire light reception face in the vertical direction but changes the light shielding width or position in the horizontal direction. However, naturally the entire light reception face is shielded in the horizontal

direction such that the width (weight) or position in the vertical direction is changed to provide an incident angle directivity to each pixel **121a**.

It is to be noted that, in the following description, a light shielding film **121b** that shields the entire light reception face of a pixel **121a** in the vertical direction and shields the light reception face with a predetermined width in the horizontal direction as in the example of FIG. 3 is referred to as light shielding film **121b** of the horizontal belt type. Meanwhile, a light shielding film **121b** that shields the entire light reception face of a pixel **121a** in the horizontal direction and shields the light reception face at a predetermined height in the vertical direction is referred to as light shielding film **121b** of the vertical belt type.

Further, as depicted at a left portion of FIG. 8, light shielding films **121b** of the vertical belt type and the horizontal belt type may be combined such that an L-shaped light shielding film **121b** is provided for each of pixels, for example, of the Bayer array.

It is to be noted that, in FIG. 8, a black range represents a light shielding film **121b**, and unless otherwise specified, similar representation is applied also to the succeeding figures. Further, in the example of FIG. 8, L-shaped light shielding films **121b-21** to **121b-24** are provided for pixels **121a-21** and **121a-24** of G (green) pixels, a pixel **121a-22** of an R (red) pixel, and a pixel **121a-23** of a B (blue) pixel of the Bayer array, respectively.

In this case, each pixel **121a** has such an incident angle directivity as indicated at a right portion of FIG. 8. In particular, at the right portion of FIG. 8, a distribution of light reception sensitivities of the pixels **121a** is depicted, and the axis of abscissa represents the incident angle θ_x in the horizontal direction (x direction) of incident light and the axis of ordinate represents the incident angle θ_y in the vertical direction (y direction) of incident light. Thus, the light reception sensitivity in a range C4 is higher than that outside the range C4; the light reception sensitivity in a range C3 is higher than that outside the range C3; the light reception sensitivity in a range C2 is higher than that outside the range C2; and the light reception sensitivity in a range C1 is higher than that outside the range C1.

Accordingly, each pixel **121a** indicates the highest detection signal level in regard to incident light that has the incident angle θ_x in the horizontal direction (x direction) and the incident angle θ_y in the vertical direction (y direction) that are included in the range C1. Further, the detection signal level decreases in the order of incident light whose incident angle θ_x and incident angle θ_y are included in the range C2, in the range C3, in the range C4, and in the range outside the range C4. It is to be noted that the intensity distribution of the light reception sensitivity depicted at the right portion of FIG. 8 is determined by the range shielded by the light shielding film **121b** in each pixel **121a** independently of the Bayer array.

It is to be noted that, in the following description, a light shielding film **121b** of such a shape that light shielding films of the vertical belt type and light shielding films of the horizontal belt type are connected to each other at individual end portions, like the L-shaped light shielding films **121b-21** to **121b-24** of FIG. 8, is totally referred to as L-shaped light shielding film **121b**.

<Setting Method of Incident Angle Directivity>

Now, an example of a setting method of an incident angle directivity is described with reference to FIG. 9.

For example, a case is considered in which, as depicted at an upper stage of FIG. 9, the light shielding range of a light shielding film **121b** in the horizontal direction is a range

from a left end portion of the pixel **121a** to a position A and the light shielding range in the vertical direction is a range from an upper end portion of the pixel **121a** to a position B.

In this case, a weight W_x is set which is a weight according to the incident angle θ_x (deg) from a central position of each pixel in the horizontal direction and ranges from 0 to 1 and serves as an index to the incident angle directivity in the horizontal direction. More particularly, in the case where it is assumed that the weight W_x is 0.5 at the incident angle $\theta_x = \theta_a$ corresponding to the position A, the weight W_x is set such that it is 1 at the incident angle $\theta_x < \theta_a - \alpha$; it is $-(\theta_x - \theta_a) / 2\alpha + 0.5$ where $\theta_a - \alpha \leq$ incident angle $\theta_x \leq \theta_a + \alpha$; and it is 0 at the incident angle $\theta_x > \theta_a + \alpha$.

Similarly, a weight W_y is set which is a weight according to the incident angle θ_y (deg) from a central position of each pixel in the vertical direction and ranges from 0 to 1 and serves as an index to the incident angle directivity in the vertical direction. More particularly, in the case where it is assumed that the weight W_y is 0.5 at the incident angle $\theta_y = \theta_b$ corresponding to the position B, the weight W_y is set such that it is 0 at the incident angle $\theta_y < \theta_b - \alpha$; it is $((\theta_y - \theta_b) / 2\alpha + 0.5)$ where $\theta_b - \alpha \leq$ incident angle $\theta_y \leq \theta_b + \alpha$; and it is 1 at the incident angle $\theta_y > \theta_b + \alpha$.

It is to be noted that the weights W_x and W_y change like those in the graph of FIG. 9 in the case where an ideal condition is satisfied.

Then, by using the weights W_x and W_y calculated in this manner, a coefficient of the incident angle directivity, namely, the light reception sensitivity characteristic, of each pixel **121a** can be calculated. For example, a value obtained by multiplication of a weight W_x corresponding to the incident angle θ_x of incident light and a weight W_y corresponding to the incident angle θ_y of incident light from a certain point light source on the imaging target face **31** is set to the coefficient for the point light source.

Further, at this time, the inclination $(1/2\alpha)$ indicative of a change of the weight within a range within which the weight W_x in the horizontal direction and the weight W_y in the vertical direction are around 0.5 can be set by using on-chip lenses **121c** having different focal distances.

For example, in the case where the focal distance of an on-chip lens **121c** corresponds to the surface of a light shielding film **121b** as indicated by a solid line at a lower stage of FIG. 9, the inclinations $(1/2\alpha)$ of the weight W_x in the horizontal direction and the weight W_y in the vertical direction are steep. In particular, the weight W_x and the weight W_y change rapidly to 0 or 1 in the proximity of the boundaries of the incident angle $\theta_x = \theta_a$ in the horizontal direction and the incident angle $\theta_y = \theta_b$ in the vertical direction at which the values are around 0.5.

On the other hand, in the case where the focal distance of an on-chip lens **121c** corresponds to the surface of a photodiode **121e** as indicated by a broken line at the lower stage of FIG. 9, the inclinations $(1/2\alpha)$ of the weight W_x in the horizontal direction and the weight W_y in the vertical direction are gentle. In particular, the weight W_x and the weight W_y change moderately to 0 or 1 in the proximity of the boundaries of the incident angle $\theta_x = \theta_a$ in the horizontal direction and the incident angle $\theta_y = \theta_b$ in the vertical direction at which the values are around 0.5.

For example, the focal distance of the on-chip lens **121c** changes depending upon the curvature of the on-chip lens **121c**. Accordingly, by making the focal distances of the on-chip lenses **121c** different from each other using the on-chip lenses **121c** having curvatures different from each other, different incident angle directivities, namely, different light reception sensitivity characteristics, can be obtained.

Accordingly, the incident angle directivity of a pixel **121a** can be adjusted by a combination of the range within which the photodiode **121e** is shielded by the light shielding film **121b** and the curvature of the on-chip lens **121c**. It is to be noted that the curvature of the on-chip lens may be equal among all of the pixels **121a** of the imaging device **121** or may be different in some of the pixels **121a**.

For example, on the basis of the position of each pixel **121a**, the shape, position, and range of the light shielding film **121b** of each pixel **121a**, the curvature of the on-chip lens **121c**, and so forth as indices representative of the incident angle directivity of each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121**, such characteristics of the weight W_x and the weight W_y as depicted in the graph of FIG. 9 are set for each pixel **121a**. Further, on the basis of the positional relation between a certain point light source on the imaging target face **31** at a predetermined imaging target distance and a certain pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121**, the incident angle of a ray of light from the point light source to the pixel **121a** is calculated. Then, on the basis of the calculated incident angle and the characteristics of the weight W_x and the weight W_y of the pixel **121a**, a coefficient of the pixel **121a** with respect to the point light source is calculated.

Similarly, by calculating a coefficient in such a manner as described for a combination of each point light source on the imaging target face **31** and each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121**, a coefficient set group of the imaging device **121** with respect to the imaging target face **31** like a coefficient set α_1 , β_1 , and γ_1 , another coefficient set α_2 , β_2 , and γ_2 and a further coefficient set α_3 , β_3 , and γ_3 , of the expressions (1) to (3) described hereinabove can be calculated.

It is to be noted that, as hereinafter described with reference to FIG. 13, if the imaging target distance from the imaging target face **31** to the light reception face of the imaging device **121** differs, then since the incident angle of a ray of light from each point light source of the imaging target face **31** to the imaging device **121** differs, a coefficient set group that is different for each different imaging target distance is required.

Further, even with the imaging target face **31** of a same imaging target distance, if the number or arrangement of point light sources to be set differs, the incident angle of a ray of light from each point light source to the imaging device **121** differs. Accordingly, a plurality of coefficient set groups is sometimes required for the imaging target face **31** of a same imaging target distance. Further, it is necessary to set the incident angle directivity of each pixel **121a** such that the independence of the simultaneous equations described above can be assured.

<Difference Between on-Chip Lens and Imaging Lens>

In the imaging apparatus **101** of the present disclosure, although the imaging device **121** is configured such that it does not require an optical block including an imaging lens or a pinhole, the on-chip lens **121c** is provided as described above. Here, the on-chip lens **121c** and the imaging lens are different in physical action from each other.

For example, as depicted in FIG. 10, light entering an imaging lens **152** from within diffuse light emitted from a point light source **P101** is condensed at a pixel position **P111** on an imaging device **151**. In particular, the imaging lens **152** is designed such that diffuse light entering at a different angle from the point light source **P101** is condensed at the pixel position **P111** to form an image of the point light source **P101**. The pixel position **P111** is specified by a principal ray **L101** that passes the point light source **P101** and the center of the imaging lens **152**.

Further, for example, as depicted in FIG. 11, light entering the imaging lens **152** from within diffuse light emitted from a point light source **P102** different from the point light source **P101** is condensed at a pixel position **P112** different from the pixel position **P111** on the imaging device **151**. In particular, the imaging lens **152** is designed such that diffuse light entering at a different angle from the point light source **P102** is condensed at the pixel position **P112** to form an image of the point light source **P102**. This pixel position **P112** is specified by a principal ray **L102** that passes the point light source **P102** and the center of the imaging lens **152**.

In this manner, the imaging lens **152** forms images of the point light sources **P101** and **P102** whose principal rays are different from each other at the pixel positions **P111** and **P112** different from each other on the imaging device **151**, respectively.

Furthermore, as depicted in FIG. 12, in the case where the point light source **P101** exists in the infinity, part of diffuse light emitted from the point light source **P101** enters as parallel light parallel to the principal ray **L101** into the imaging lens **152**. For example, parallel light including rays of light between a ray **L121** and another ray **L122** parallel to the principal ray **L101** enters the imaging lens **152**. Then, the parallel light entering the imaging lens **152** is condensed at the pixel position **P111** on the imaging device **151**. In other words, the imaging lens **152** is designed such that parallel light from the point light source **P101** existing in the infinity is condensed at the pixel position **P111** to form an image of the point light source **P101**.

Accordingly, the imaging lens **152** has a light condensing function for introducing diffuse light from a point light source having, for example, a principal ray incident angle θ_1 into a pixel (pixel output unit) **P1** and introducing diffuse light from a point light source having a principal ray incident angle θ_2 different from the principal ray incident angle θ_1 into a pixel (pixel output unit) **P2** different from the pixel **P1**. In other words, the imaging lens **152** has a light condensing function for introducing diffuse light from light sources having different incident angles of principal rays of light to a plurality of pixels (pixel output units) adjacent each other. However, light, for example, from point light sources adjacent each other or from point light sources existing in the infinity and substantially adjacent each other sometimes enters the same pixel (pixel output unit).

In contrast, for example, as described hereinabove with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5, light passing the on-chip lens **121c** enters only the light reception face of the photodiode **121e** or the photodiode **121f** configuring the corresponding pixel (pixel output unit). In other words, the on-chip lens **121c** is provided for each pixel (pixel output unit) and condenses incident light entering the on-chip lens **121c** itself only at the corresponding pixel (pixel output unit). In other words, the on-chip lens **121c** does not have a condensing function for causing light from different point light sources to enter different pixels (pixel output units).

It is to be noted that, in the case where a pinhole is used, the relation between the position of each pixel (pixel output unit) and the incident angle of light is determined uniquely. Accordingly, in the case of the configuration that uses a pinhole and a conventional imaging device, the incident angle directivity cannot be set independently and freely for each pixel.

<Relation Between Imaging Target Face and Distance to Imaging Device>

Now, a relation between an imaging target face and the distance to the imaging device **121** is described with reference to FIG. **13**.

It is to be noted that, in the case where the imaging target distance from the imaging device **121** (similar to the imaging device **51** of FIG. **1**) to the imaging target face **31** is a distance **d1** as depicted in the upper left of FIG. **13**, it is assumed that the detection signal levels **DA**, **DB**, and **DC** at the pixels **Pc**, **Pb**, and **Pa** on the imaging device **121** are represented by expressions same as the expressions (1) to (3) given hereinabove.

$$DA = \alpha 1 \times a + \beta 1 \times b + \gamma 1 \times c \quad (1)$$

$$DB = \alpha 2 \times a + \beta 2 \times b + \gamma 2 \times c \quad (2)$$

$$DC = \alpha 3 \times a + \beta 3 \times b + \gamma 3 \times c \quad (3)$$

Also in the case where an imaging target face **31'** whose distance to the imaging device **121** is a distance **d2** that is greater by **d** than the distance **d1** as depicted in the lower left of FIG. **13**, namely, the imaging target face **31'** deeper than the imaging target face **31** as viewed from the imaging device **121**, is considered, the detection signal levels at the pixels **Pc**, **Pb**, and **Pa** on the imaging device **121** are the detection signal levels **DA**, **DB**, and **DC** as depicted at a middle portion at the lower stage of FIG. **13** and similar to those described above.

However, in this case, rays of light of light intensities **a'**, **b'**, and **c'** from the point light sources **PA'**, **PB'**, and **PC'** on the imaging target face **31'** are received by the pixels of the imaging device **121**. Further, since the incident angles of the rays of light of the light intensities **a'**, **b'**, and **c'** to the imaging device **121** are different (change), coefficient set groups different from each other are required. Accordingly, the detection signal levels **DA**, **DB**, and **DC** at the pixels **Pa**, **Pb**, and **Pc** are represented, for example, by the following expressions (4) to (6).

$$DA = \alpha 11 \times a' + \beta 11 \times b' + \gamma 11 \times c' \quad (4)$$

$$DB = \alpha 12 \times a' + \beta 12 \times b' + \gamma 12 \times c' \quad (5)$$

$$DC = \alpha 13 \times a' + \beta 13 \times b' + \gamma 13 \times c' \quad (6)$$

Here, the coefficient set group including the coefficient set $\alpha 11$, $\beta 11$, and $\gamma 11$, the coefficient set $\alpha 12$, $\beta 12$, and $\gamma 12$, and the coefficient set $\alpha 13$, $\beta 13$, and $\gamma 13$ is a coefficient set group for the imaging target face **31'** corresponding to the coefficient set $\alpha 1$, $\beta 1$, and $\gamma 1$, the coefficient set $\alpha 2$, $\beta 2$, and $\gamma 2$, and the coefficient set $\alpha 3$, $\beta 3$, and $\gamma 3$ for the imaging target face **31**.

Accordingly, by solving the simultaneous equations including the expressions (4) to (6) using the coefficient set group $\alpha 11$, $\beta 11$, $\gamma 11$, $\alpha 12$, $\beta 12$, $\gamma 12$, $\alpha 13$, $\beta 13$, and $\gamma 13$, the light intensities **a'**, **b'**, and **c'** of rays of light from the point light sources **PA'**, **PB'**, and **PC'** of the imaging target face **31'** can be found as indicated in the lower right of FIG. **13** by a method similar to that in the case where the light intensities **a**, **b**, and **c** of rays of light from the point light sources **PA**, **PB**, and **PC** of the imaging target face **31** are found. As a result, a restoration image of the imaging target face **31'** can be restored.

Accordingly, in the imaging apparatus **101** of FIG. **2**, by preparing a coefficient set group for each distance (imaging target distance) from the imaging device **121** to the imaging target face in advance and switching a coefficient set group for each imaging target distance to create simultaneous

equations and then solving the created simultaneous equations, it is possible to obtain restoration images of imaging target faces at various imaging target distances on the basis of a single detection image. For example, by capturing and recording a detection image once and then using the recorded detection image to switch the coefficient set group in response to the distance to the imaging target face to restore a restoration image, a restoration image of an imaging target face at an arbitrary imaging target distance can be generated.

Further, in such a case that an imaging target distance or an angle of view can be specified, detection signals not of all pixels but of pixels having incident angle directivities suitable for imaging of the imaging target face corresponding to the specified imaging target distance or angle of view may be used to generate a restoration image. This makes it possible to generate a restoration image using detection signals of pixels suitable for imaging of an imaging target face corresponding to the specified imaging target distance or angle of view.

For example, a pixel **121a** shielded at portions thereof at the distance **d1** from individual end portions of the four sides by the light shielding film **121b** as depicted at an upper stage of FIG. **14** and a pixel **121a'** shielded at portions thereof at the distance **d2** ($> d1$) from individual end portions of the four sides by the light shielding film **121b** as depicted at a lower stage of FIG. **14** are considered.

FIG. **15** depicts an example of an incident angle of incident light from the imaging target face **31** to the central position **C1** of the imaging device **121**. It is to be noted that, although FIG. **15** depicts an example of the incident angle of incident light in the horizontal direction, this also applies similarly in regard to the vertical direction. Further, at a right portion of FIG. **15**, the pixels **121a** and **121a'** in FIG. **14** are depicted.

For example, in the case where the pixel **121a** of FIG. **14** is arranged at the central position **C1** of the imaging device **121**, the range of the incident angle of incident light from the imaging target face **31** to the pixel **121a** is an angle **A1** as indicated at a left portion of FIG. **15**. Accordingly, the pixel **121a** can receive incident light for a width **W1** in the horizontal direction of the imaging target face **31**.

In contrast, in the case where the pixel **121a'** of FIG. **14** is arranged at the central position **C1** of the imaging device **121**, since the pixel **121a'** has a greater shielded range than the pixel **121a**, the range of the incident angle of incident light from the imaging target face **31** to the pixel **121a'** is an angle **A2** ($< A1$) as indicated at a left portion of FIG. **15**. Accordingly, the pixel **121a'** can receive incident light for a width **W2** ($< W1$) in the horizontal direction of the imaging target face **31**.

In short, while the pixel **121a** having a narrow light shielding range is a wide angle-of-view pixel suitable to image a wide range on the imaging target face **31**, the pixel **121a'** having a wide light shielding range is a narrow angle-of-view pixel suitable to image a narrow range on the imaging target face **31**. It is to be noted that the wide angle-of-view pixel and the narrow angle-of-view pixel here are representations for comparison between the pixels **121a** and **121a'** of FIG. **14** and are not restrictive in comparison between pixels of other angles of view.

Accordingly, for example, the pixel **121a** is used to restore an image **I1** of FIG. **14**. The image **I1** is an image of an angle **SQ1** of view corresponding to the imaging target width **W1** including an entire person **H101** that is an imaging target at an upper stage of FIG. **16**. In contrast, for example, the pixel **121a'** is used to restore an image **I2** of FIG. **14**. The image

12 is an image of an angle **SQ2** of view corresponding to the imaging target width **W2** in which an area around the face of the person **H101** at the upper stage of FIG. **16** is zoomed up.

Further, it is conceivable, for example, to collect and place each predetermined number of pixels **121a** of FIG. **14** in a range **ZA** surrounded by a broken line and collect and place each predetermined number of pixels **121a'** in a range **ZB** surrounded by a chain line of the imaging device **121** as depicted at a lower stage of FIG. **16**. Then, for example, when an image of an angle **SQ1** of view corresponding to the imaging target width **W1** is to be restored, by using detection signals of the pixels **121a** in the range **ZA**, an image of the angle **SQ1** of view can be restored appropriately. On the other hand, in the case where an image of an angle **SQ2** of view corresponding to the imaging target width **W2** is to be restored, by using detection signals of the pixels **121a'** in the range **ZB**, an image of the angle **SQ2** of view can be restored appropriately.

It is to be noted that, since the angle **SQ2** of view is narrower than the angle **SQ1** of view, in the case where images of the angle **SQ2** of view and the angle **SQ1** of view are to be restored with an equal pixel number, a restoration image of higher image quality can be restored by restoration of an image of the angle **SQ2** of view than by restoration of an image of the angle **SQ1** of view.

In short, in the case where it is considered to obtain a restoration image using a same pixel number, a restoration image of higher image quality can be obtained where an image of a narrower angle of view is restored.

For example, a right portion of FIG. **17** depicts an image of a configuration in the range **ZA** of the imaging device **121** of FIG. **16**. A left portion of FIG. **17** depicts an example of a configuration of the pixel **121a** in the range **ZA**.

Referring to FIG. **17**, a range indicated by black represents the light shielding film **121b**, and the light shielding range of each pixel **121a** is determined, for example, in accordance with a rule indicated at the left portion of FIG. **17**.

A main light shielding portion **2101** of the left portion of FIG. **17** (black portion at the left portion of FIG. **17**) indicates a range shielded in common in the pixels **121a**. In particular, the main light shielding portion **2101** has a range of a width **dx1** from the left side and the right side of the pixel **121a** toward the inner side of the pixel **121a** and a range of a height **dy1** from the upper side and the lower side of the pixel **121a** toward the inner side of the pixel **121a**. Further, in each pixel **121a**, a rectangular opening **2111** that is not shielded by the light shielding film **121b** is provided within a range **2102** on the inner side of the main light shielding portion **2101**. Accordingly, in each pixel **121a**, the range other than the opening **2111** is shielded by the light shielding film **121b**.

Here, the openings **2111** of the pixels **121a** are arranged regularly. In particular, the positions of the openings **2111** in the pixels **121a** in the horizontal direction are same in the pixels **121a** in a same vertical column. Further, the positions of the openings **2111** in the pixels **121a** in the vertical direction are same in the pixels **121a** in a same horizontal row.

On the other hand, the positions of the openings **2111** in the pixels **121a** in the horizontal direction are displaced by a predetermined distance according to the positions of the pixels **121a** in the horizontal direction. In particular, as the position of the pixel **121a** is displaced toward the rightward direction, the left side of the opening **2111** moves to a position displaced by the width **dx1**, **dx2**, . . . , **dxn** in the

rightward direction from the left side of the pixel **121a**. The distance between the width **dx1** and the width **dx2**, the distance between the width **dx2** and the width **dx3**, . . . , and the distance between the width **dxn-1** and the width **dxn** are values given by dividing the length when the width of the opening **2111** is subtracted respectively from the width of the range **2102** in the horizontal direction by the pixel number **n-1** in the horizontal direction.

Further, the position of the opening **2111** in the pixel **121a** in the vertical direction is displaced by a predetermined distance in response to the position of the pixel **121a** in the vertical direction. In particular, as the position of the pixel **121a** is displaced in the downward direction, the upper side of the opening **2111** moves to a position displaced by the height **dy1**, **dy2**, . . . , **dyn** from the upper side of the pixel **121a**. The distance between the height **dy1** and the height **dy2**, the distance between the height **dy2** and the height **dy3**, . . . , the distance between the height **dyn-1** and the height **dyn** are values obtained by dividing the length when the height of the opening **2111** is subtracted from the height of the range **2102** in the vertical direction by the pixel number **m-1** in the vertical direction.

A right portion of FIG. **18** depicts an example of a configuration in the range **ZB** of the imaging device **121** of FIG. **16**. A left portion of FIG. **18** depicts an example of a configuration of the pixels **121a'** in the range **ZB**.

Referring to FIG. **18**, a range indicated by black represents a light shielding film **121b'**, and the light shielding ranges of the pixels **121a'** are determined, for example, in accordance with a rule indicated at a left portion of FIG. **18**.

A main light shielding portion **2151** at a left portion of FIG. **18** (black portion at the left portion of FIG. **18**) is a range shielded in common in the pixels **121a'**. In particular, the main light shielding portion **2151** is a range of a width **dx1'** from the left side and the right side of the pixel **121a'** toward the inner side of the pixel **121a'** and a range of a height **dy1'** from the upper side and the lower side of the pixel **121a'** toward the inner side of the pixel **121a'**. Further, in each pixel **121a'**, a rectangular opening **2161** that is not shielded by the light shielding film **121b'** is provided in a range **2152** on the inner side of the main light shielding portion **2151**. Accordingly, in each pixel **121a'**, the range other than the opening **2161** is shielded by the light shielding film **121b'**.

Here, the openings **2161** of the pixels **121a'** are arranged regularly similarly to the openings **2111** of the pixels **121a** of FIG. **17**. In particular, the positions of the openings **2161** in the pixels **121a'** in the horizontal direction are same in the pixels **121a'** in a same vertical column. Meanwhile, the positions of the openings **2161** in the pixels **121a'** in the vertical direction are same in the pixels **121a'** in a same horizontal row.

On the other hand, the positions of the openings **2161** in the horizontal direction in the pixels **121a'** are displaced by a predetermined distance in response to the position of the pixel **121a'** in the horizontal direction. In particular, as the position of the pixel **121a'** is displaced toward the rightward direction, the left side of the opening **2161** moves to a position individually displaced in the rightward direction by the width **dx1'**, **dx2'**, . . . , **dxn'** from the left side of the pixel **121a'**. The distance between the width **dx1'** and the width **dx2'**, the distance between the width **dx2'** and the width **dx3'**, . . . , the distance between the width **dxn-1'** and the width **dxn'** are values obtained by dividing the length when the width of the opening **2161** is subtracted from the width of the range **2152** in the horizontal direction by the pixel number **n-1** in the horizontal direction.

On the other hand, the positions of the openings **2161** in the pixels **121a'** in the vertical direction are displaced by a predetermined distance according to the positions of the pixels **121a'** in the vertical direction. In particular, as the position of the pixel **121a'** is displaced toward the downward direction, the upper side of the opening **2161** moves to a position displaced by the width $dy1', dy2', \dots, dyn'$ in the downward direction from the upper side of the pixel **121a'**. The distance between the width $dy1'$ and the width $dy2'$, the distance between the width $dy2'$ and the width $dy3', \dots$, and the distance between the $dyn-1'$ and the width dyn' are values given by dividing the length when the height of the opening **2161** is subtracted respectively from the height of the range **2152** in the vertical direction by the pixel number $m-1$ in the vertical direction.

Here, the length when the width of the opening **2111** is subtracted from the width of the range **2102** of the pixel **121a** of FIG. 17 in the horizontal direction is greater than the width when the width of the opening **2161** is subtracted from the width of the range **2152** of the pixel **121a'** of FIG. 18 in the horizontal direction. Accordingly, the distance of the change of the widths $dx1, dx2, \dots, dxn$ of FIG. 17 is greater than the distance of the change of the widths $dx1', dx2', \dots, dxn'$ of FIG. 18.

Further, the length when the height of the opening **2111** is subtracted from the height of the range **2102** of the pixel **121a** of FIG. 17 in the vertical direction is greater than the length when the height of the opening **2161** is subtracted from the height of the range **2152** of the pixel **121a'** of FIG. 18 in the vertical direction. Accordingly, the distance of the change of the heights $dy1, dy2, \dots, dyn$ of FIG. 17 is greater than the distance of the change of the heights $dy1', dy2', \dots, dyn'$ of FIG. 18.

In this manner, the distances of the change of the positions in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction of the opening **2111** of the light shielding film **121b** of the pixel **121a** of FIG. 17 and the distances of the change of the positions in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction of the opening **2161** of the light shielding film **121b'** of the pixel **121a'** of FIG. 18 are different from each other. Then, the difference in distance becomes a distance of the imaging target resolution (angular resolution) in a restoration image. In particular, the distances of the change of the positions in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction of the opening **2161** of the light shielding film **121b'** of the pixel **121a'** of FIG. 18 is smaller than the distances of the change of the positions in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction of the opening **2111** of the light shielding film **121b** of the pixel **121a** of FIG. 17. Accordingly, a restoration image restored using detection signals of the pixels **121a'** of FIG. 18 is higher in imaging target resolution and higher in image quality than a restoration image restored using detection signals of the pixels **121a** of FIG. 17.

By changing the combination of a light shielding range of a main light shielding portion and an opening range of an opening in this manner, an imaging device **121** including pixels of various angles of view (having various incident angle directivities) can be implemented.

It is to be noted that, while the foregoing description is directed to an example in which the pixels **121a** and the pixels **121a'** are arranged separately in the range ZA and the range ZB, respectively, such description is intended for simplified description, and it is desirable for the pixels **121a**, which correspond to different angles of view, to be arranged in a mixed manner in the same region.

For example, as depicted in FIG. 19, forming one unit U from four pixels of two pixels×two pixels indicated by

broken lines, each unit U includes four pixels of a pixel **121a-W** of a wide angle of view, a pixel **121a-M** of a medium angle of view, a pixel **121a-N** of a narrow angle of view and a pixel **121a-AN** of a very narrow angle of view.

In this case, for example, in the case where the pixel number of all pixels **121a** is X, it is possible to restore a restoration image using detection images each having X/4 pixels for each of the four angles of view. At this time, four coefficient set groups different from one another are used for each angle of view, and restoration images of angles of view different from one another are restored by four different kinds of simultaneous equations.

Accordingly, by restoring a restoration image using a detection image obtained from pixels suitable for imaging of an angle of view of the restoration image to be restored, appropriate restoration images according to four different angles of view can be obtained.

Further, images of intermediate angles of view among four angles of view and/or images of angles of view around the intermediate angles of view may be generated by interpolation from the images of the four angles of view, and by generating images of various angles of view seamlessly, pseudo optical zooming may be implemented.

It is to be noted that, for example, in the case of obtaining an image of a wide angle of view as a restoration image, all wide angle-of-view pixels may be used or some of wide angle-of-view pixels may be used. Further, for example, in the case of obtaining an image of a narrow angle of view as a restoration image, all narrow angle-of-view pixels may be used or some of the narrow angle-of-view pixels may be used.

<Imaging Process by Imaging Apparatus **101**>

Now, an imaging process by the imaging apparatus **101** of FIG. 2 is described with reference to a flow chart of FIG. 20.

At step S1, the imaging device **121** performs imaging of an imaging target. Consequently, a detection signal indicative of a detection signal level according to a light amount of incident light from the imaging target is outputted from each of the pixels **121a** of the imaging device **121** that have different incident angle directivities. The imaging device **121** supplies a detection image including the detection signals of the pixels **121a** to the restoration section **122**.

At step S2, the restoration section **122** calculates a coefficient to be used for restoration of an image. In particular, the restoration section **122** sets a distance to the imaging target face **31** that is a restoration target, namely, an imaging target distance. It is to be noted that an arbitrary method can be adopted as the setting method of an imaging target distance. For example, the restoration section **122** sets an imaging target distance inputted through the inputting section **124** by the user or an imaging target distance detected by the detection section **125** as the distance to the imaging target face **31** of the restoration target.

Then, the restoration section **122** reads out a coefficient set group associated with the set imaging target distance from the storage section **128**.

At step S3, the restoration section **122** performs restoration of an image using the detection image and the coefficient. In particular, the restoration section **122** uses the detection signal levels of the pixels of the detection image and the coefficient set group acquired by the process at step S2 to create simultaneous equations described hereinabove with reference to the expressions (1) to (3) or the expressions (4) to (6) described hereinabove. Then, the restoration section **122** solves the created simultaneous equations to calculate a light intensity of each point light source on the imaging target face **31** corresponding to the set imaging

target distance. Then, the restoration section **122** arranges the pixels having pixel values according to the calculated light intensities in accordance with the arrangement of the point light sources of the imaging target face **31** to generate a restoration image in which an image of the imaging target is formed.

At step S4, the imaging apparatus **101** performs various processes for the restoration image. For example, the restoration section **122** performs a demosaic process, γ correction, white balance adjustment, a conversion process into a predetermined compression format and so forth for the restoration image as occasion demands. Further, for example, the restoration section **122** supplies the restoration image to the display section **127** so as to be displayed or to the recording and reproduction section **129** so as to be recorded in the recording medium **130**, or supplies the restoration image to a different apparatus through the communication section **131** as occasion demands.

Thereafter, the imaging process ends.

It is to be noted that, although the foregoing description is directed to an example in which a restoration image is restored from a detection image using a coefficient set group associated with the imaging device **121** and the imaging target distance, for example, coefficient set groups corresponding to angles of view of the restoration image in addition to the imaging target distance may be prepared further in such a manner as described above such that a restoration image is restored using a coefficient set group according to an imaging target distance and an angle of view. It is to be noted that the resolution for an imaging target distance and an angle of view depends upon the number of coefficient set groups to be prepared.

Further, while the description of the processing using the flow chart of FIG. **20** is directed to an example in which detection signals of all pixels included in a detection image are used, a detection image including detection signals of pixels having an incident angle directivity corresponding to a specified imaging target distance and angle of view from among the pixels configuring the imaging device **121** may be generated such that a restoration image is restored using this detection image. Such a process as just described makes it possible to restore a restoration image from a detection image suitable for an imaging target distance and an angle of view of a restoration image to be determined, and the restoration accuracy and the image quality of the restoration image are improved. In particular, in the case where an image corresponding to a specified imaging target distance and angle of view is an example corresponding, for example, to the angle SQ1 of view in FIG. **16**, by selecting the pixels **121a** having an incident angle directivity corresponding to the angle SQ1 of view and restoring a restoration image from a detection image obtained from the selected pixels **121a**, an image of the angle SQ1 of view can be restored with high accuracy.

By the processes described above, the imaging apparatus **101** that includes, as an essential component, the imaging device **121** in which an incident angle directivity is provided to each pixel can be implemented.

As a result, since an imaging lens, a pinhole and an optical filter described in the patent documents and so forth become unnecessary, it is possible to raise the degree of freedom in apparatus design. Further, since an optical device that is configured as a separate body from the imaging device **121** and is incorporated together with the imaging device **121** at a stage at which an imaging apparatus is configured, it is possible to implement downsizing of the apparatus in the incident direction of incident light and to reduce the manu-

facturing cost. Further a lens corresponding to an imaging lens for forming an optical image like a focusing lens becomes unnecessary. However, a zoom lens for changing the magnification may be provided.

It is to be noted that, although the foregoing description is given of a process for restoring a restoration image corresponding to a predetermined imaging target distance immediately after capturing of a detection image is performed, a restoration image may be restored, for example, using a detection image at a desired timing after the detection image is recorded into the recording medium **130** or is outputted to a different apparatus through the communication section **131** without performing the restoration process immediately. In this case, the restoration of the restoration image may be performed by the imaging apparatus **101** or may be performed by a different apparatus. In this case, by finding the restoration image, for example, by solving simultaneous equations created using a coefficient set group according to an arbitrary imaging target distance or angle of view, a restoration image for an imaging target face of the arbitrary imaging target distance or angle of view can be obtained, and refocus and so forth can be implemented.

For example, in the case where an imaging apparatus including an imaging lens and a conventional imaging device is used, in order to obtain images of various focal distances and angles of view, it is necessary to perform imaging while the focal distance and the angle of view are changed variously. On the other hand, in the imaging apparatus **101**, since a restoration image of an arbitrary imaging target distance or angle of view can be restored by switching the coefficient set group in this manner, such a process as to repetitively perform imaging while the focal distance (namely, the imaging target distance) or the angle of view is changed variously becomes unnecessary.

In this case, for example, also it is possible for the user to obtain a restoration image of a desired imaging target distance or angle of view by displaying restoration images restored by successively switching the coefficient set group corresponding to a different imaging target distance or angle of view on the display section **127**.

It is to be noted that, in the case where a detection image is recorded, metadata to be used for restoration may be associated with the detection image when an imaging target distance or angle of view upon restoration is determined. A detection image and metadata can be associated with each other, for example, by applying the metadata to image data including the detection image, applying a same ID to the detection image and the metadata or recording the detection image and the metadata into a same recording medium **130**.

It is to be noted that, in the case where a same ID is applied to the detection image and the metadata, it is possible to record the detection image and the metadata into different recording media or to individually output them from the imaging apparatus **101**.

Further, the metadata may include or may not include a coefficient set group to be used for restoration. In the latter case, for example, an imaging target distance and an angle of view upon restoration are included in the metadata, and at the time of restoration, a coefficient set group corresponding to the imaging target distance and the angle of view is acquired from the storage section **128** or the like.

Furthermore, in the case where restoration of a restoration image is performed immediately upon imaging, for example, it is possible to select, for example, an image to be recorded or to be outputted to the outside from between the detection image and the restoration image. For example, both images

may be recorded or outputted to the outside or only one of the images may be recorded or outputted to the outside.

Also in the case where a moving image is captured, it is possible to select whether or not restoration of a restoration image is to be performed at the time of imaging or select an image to be recorded or outputted to the outside. For example, it is possible to restore, while capturing of a moving image is performed, a restoration image of each frame immediately and record or output to the outside both or one of the restoration image and a detection image before the restoration. In this case, also it is possible to display, at the time of imaging, a restoration image of each frame as a through image. Alternatively, at the time of imaging, for example, it is possible to record or output to the outside a detection image of each frame without performing a restoration process.

Furthermore, at the time of capturing of a moving image, for example, selection of whether or not restoration of a restoration image is to be performed or of an image to be recorded or to be outputted to the outside can be performed for each frame. For example, whether or not restoration of a restoration image is to be performed can be switched for each frame. Further, it is possible to individually switch whether or not recording of a detection image is to be performed and whether or not recording of a restoration image is to be performed for each frame. Further, for example, detection images of all frames may be recorded while metadata is applied to a detection image of a useful frame that may possibly be used later.

Also it is possible to implement an autofocus function like that in an imaging apparatus that uses an imaging lens. For example, by determining an optimum imaging target distance by a mountain climbing method similar to a contrast AF (Auto Focus) method on the basis of a restoration image, the autofocus function can be implemented.

Further, since a restoration image can be generated using a detection image captured by the imaging device **121** having an incident angle directivity in a unit of a pixel in comparison with an imaging apparatus including the optical filter described in the patent documents and so forth and a conventional imaging device, it is possible to implement increase of the number of pixels or to obtain a restoration image of a high resolution and a high angular resolution. On the other hand, in an imaging apparatus that includes an optical filter and a conventional imaging device, even if pixels are refined, since refinement of optical filters is difficult, it is difficult to achieve implementation of a high resolution and so forth of a restoration image.

Further, since the imaging apparatus **101** of the present disclosure includes the imaging device **121** as an essential component and does not require, for example, the optical filter and so forth described in the patent documents and so forth mentioned hereinabove, such a situation that the use environment becomes hot and the optical filter is distorted by heat does not occur, and it is possible to implement an imaging apparatus of high environmental resistance.

Furthermore, in the imaging apparatus **101** of the present disclosure, since an imaging lens, a pinhole and the optical filter described in the patent documents and so forth mentioned hereinabove are not required, it is possible to improve the degree of freedom in design of a configuration including an imaging function.

<Reduction Method of Processing Load>

Incidentally, in the case where the light shielding range (namely, the incident angle directivity) of the light shielding film **121b** of each pixel **121a** of the imaging device **121** has randomness, as the disorder of difference of the light shield-

ing range increases, the load of processing by the restoration section **122** increases. Therefore, the processing load may be reduced by making part of a change of the light shielding range of the light shielding film **121b** of each pixel **121a** regular to reduce the disorder.

For example, L-shaped light shielding films **121b** in which the vertical belt type and the horizontal belt type are combined are configured such that, in a predetermined column direction, light shielding films **121b** of the horizontal belt type having an equal width are combined while, in a predetermined row direction, light shielding films **121b** of the vertical belt type having an equal height are combined. By this, the light shielding ranges of the light shielding films **121b** of the pixels **121a** come to change at random in a pixel unit while they keep regularity in the column direction and the row direction. As a result, it is possible to reduce differences in light shielding range of the light shielding films **121b** of the pixels **121a**, namely, the disorder of differences of incident angle directivities, thereby to reduce the processing load of the restoration section **122**.

In particular, for example, as depicted by an imaging device **121"** of FIG. **21**, for pixels in a same column indicated by a range **2130**, light shielding films **121b** of the horizontal belt type having an equal width **X0** are used, and for pixels in a same row indicated by a range **2150**, light shielding films **121b** of the vertical belt type of an equal height **Y0** are used. As a result, for pixels **121a** specified by each row and column, light shielding films **121b** of the L-shaped type in which they are combined are used.

Similarly, for pixels in a same column indicated by a range **2131** next to the range **2130**, light shielding films **121b** of the horizontal belt type having an equal width **X1** are used, and for pixels in a same row indicated by a range **2151** next to the range **2150**, light shielding films **121b** of the vertical belt type of an equal height **Y1** are used. As a result, for pixels **121a** specified by each row and column, light shielding films **121b** of the L-shaped type in which they are combined are used.

Further, for pixels in a same column indicated by a range **Z132** next to the range **2131**, light shielding films **121b** of the horizontal belt type having an equal width **X2** are used, and for pixels in a same row indicated by a range **Z152** next to the range **Z151**, light shielding films **121b** of the vertical belt type of an equal height **Y2** are used. As a result, for pixels **121a** specified by each row and column, light shielding films **121b** of the L-shaped type in which they are combined are used.

By doing this, while the width and the position in the horizontal direction and the height and position in the vertical direction of the light shielding films **121b** have regularity, the range of the light shielding film can be set to a different value in a unit of a pixel, and therefore, the disorder of the change of the incident angle directivity can be suppressed. As a result, it is possible to reduce patterns of the coefficient set and reduce the processing load of calculation process in the restoration section **122**.

More particularly, in the case where a restoration image of $N \times N$ pixels is to be found from a detection image Pic of N pixels \times N pixels as depicted at an upper right portion of FIG. **22**, such a relation as depicted at a left portion of FIG. **22** is satisfied from a vector **X** including pixel values of pixels of a restoration image of $(N \times N)$ rows \times 1 column as elements, a vector **Y** including pixel values of pixels of a detection image of $(N \times N)$ rows \times 1 column as elements, and a matrix **A** of $(N \times N)$ rows \times $(N \times N)$ columns including a coefficient set group.

In particular, in FIG. 22, it is indicated that a result of multiplication of the elements of the matrix A of the (N×N) rows×(N×N) columns including a coefficient set group and the vector X of the (N×N) rows×1 column representative of a restoration image becomes the vector Y of (N×N) rows×1 column representative of a detection image. Then, from this relation, simultaneous equations corresponding to the expressions (1) to (3) or the expressions (4) to (6) are configured.

It is to be noted that, in FIG. 22, the elements in the first column indicated by a range 2201 of the matrix A corresponds to elements of the first row of the vector X, and the elements of the (N×N)th column indicated by a range 2202 of the matrix A corresponds to the elements of (N×N)th row of the vector X.

It is to be noted that, in the case where a pinhole is used and in the case where a condensing function for introducing incident light entering from a same direction of an imaging lens or the like to both of pixel output units adjacent each other is used, since the relation between the position of each pixel and the incident angle of light is determined uniquely, the matrix A becomes a diagonal matrix in which all downward diagonal components are 1. In contrast, in the case where none of a pinhole and an imaging lens is used as in the imaging apparatus 101 of FIG. 2, since the relation between the position of each pixel and the incident angle of light is not determined uniquely, the matrix A does not become a diagonal matrix.

In other words, a restoration image is found by solving the simultaneous equations based on the determinant depicted in FIG. 22 to find elements of the vector X.

Incidentally, generally the determinant of FIG. 22 is transformed as depicted in FIG. 23 by multiplying both sides by an inverse matrix A⁻¹ of the matrix A from the left, and by multiplying the vector Y of the detection image by the inverse matrix A⁻¹ from the left, elements of the vector X that is the detection image are found.

However, in reality, sometimes the matrix A cannot be calculated accurately, sometimes the matrix A cannot be measured accurately, sometimes the matrix A cannot be solved in a case in which the basis vector thereof is near to linear dependency, and sometimes noise is included in the elements of a detection image. Then, from any one of the reasons described, or from a combination of them, sometimes the simultaneous equations cannot be solved.

Therefore, for example, considering a configuration that is robust against various errors, the following expression (7) that uses a concept of a regularized least squares method is used.

[Math. 1]

$$\hat{x} = \min \|Ax - y\|^2 + \|\gamma x\|^2 \tag{7}$$

Here, x having “” added thereto in the expression (7) represents the vector X, A represents the matrix A, Y represents the vector Y, γ represents a parameter, and ||A|| represents an L2 norm (root-sum-square). Here, the first term on the right side is a norm when both sides of FIG. 22 are minimized, and the second term on the right side is a regularization term.

If this expression (7) is solved for x, then the following expression (8) is obtained.

[Math. 2]

$$\hat{x} = (A^t A + \gamma I)^{-1} A^t y \tag{8}$$

Here, A^t is a transverse matrix of the matrix A, and I is a unit matrix.

However, since the matrix A has a huge size, the calculation amount and the required memory amount are great.

Therefore, for example, as depicted in FIG. 24, the matrix A is decomposed into a matrix AL of N rows×N columns and a matrix AR^t of N rows×N columns such that a result of multiplication of them by the matrix X of N rows×N columns representative of a restoration image from the front stage and the rear stage becomes the matrix Y of N rows×N columns representative of a detection image. By this, the matrix A of the element number (N×N)×(N×N) becomes matrices AL and ART whose pixel number is (N×N) and the element number of each matrix becomes 1/(N×N). As a result, the calculation amount and the required memory amount can be reduced.

The determinant depicted in FIG. 24 is implemented, for example, by setting the matrix in the parentheses of the expression (8) to the matrix AL and setting the inverse matrix of the transverse matrix of the matrix A to the matrix ART.

In such calculation as depicted in FIG. 24, an element group 2222 is calculated by multiplying a noticed element Xp in the matrix X by each element group 2221 of a corresponding column of the matrix AL as depicted in FIG. 25. Further, by multiplying the element group 2222 by an element of a row corresponding to the noticed element Xp in the matrix ART, a two-dimensional response 2224 corresponding to the noticed element Xp is calculated. Then, to all elements of the matrix X, the corresponding two-dimensional responses 2224 are integrated to calculate a matrix Y.

Therefore, for example, for the element group 2221 of each column of the matrix AL, a coefficient corresponding to the incident angle directivity of the pixels 121a of the horizontal belt type set to an equal width for each column of the imaging device 121 depicted in FIG. 21 is used.

Similarly, for example, for an element group 2223 of each row of the matrix ART, a coefficient corresponding to the incident angle directivity of the pixels 121a of the vertical belt type set to an equal height for each row of the imaging device 121 depicted in FIG. 21 is used.

As a result, it becomes possible to reduce a matrix to be utilized when a restoration image is to be restored on the basis of a detection image, and therefore, the calculation amount decreases. Consequently, it is possible to improve the processing speed and reduce the power consumption required for the calculation. Further, since the matrix can be reduced in size, it becomes possible to reduce the capacity of the memory to be used for the calculation and becomes possible to reduce the apparatus cost.

It is to be noted that, although FIG. 21 depicts an example in which the light shielding range (light reception range) is changed in a unit of a pixel while predetermined regularity is provided in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction, in the present disclosure, even where the light shielding range (light reception range) is set in a unit of a pixel not fully at random but at random to some degree, it is deemed that the light shielding range (light reception range) is set at random. In other words, in the present disclosure, not only in the case where the light shielding range (light reception range) is set fully at random in a unit of a pixel, but also in the case where the light shielding range (light reception range) is set at random to some degree (for example, although, from among all pixels, some pixels belong to a region in which the light shielding range (light reception range) has regularity, the other pixels belong to the other region in which the light shielding range (light recep-

tion range) is set at random) or the light shielding range (light reception range) seems having no regularity to some degree (in the case of arrangement in which it cannot be confirmed that the light shielding range (light reception range) is arranged in accordance with such a rule as described hereinabove with reference to FIG. 21), it is deemed that the light shielding range (light reception range) is set at random.

3. Embodiment of Present Disclosure

Now, a first embodiment of the present disclosure is described with reference to FIGS. 26 to 29.

In the present embodiment, a pixel that has a configuration for providing an incident angle directivity (hereinafter referred to as incident angle directivity configuration) (such pixel is hereinafter referred to as directive pixel) and a pixel that does not have an incident angle directivity configuration (hereinafter referred to as non-directive pixel) are provided in one imaging device. Further, one of the directive pixel and the non-directive pixel can be selected to perform imaging.

Here, the directive pixel is a pixel that has an incident angle directivity configuration, for example, like that of the pixel 121a of FIG. 4 or 5.

On the other hand, the non-directive pixel is a pixel that does not have an incident angle directivity configuration, for example, like that of the pixel 121a of FIG. 4 or 5. For example, a pixel in which the portion for shielding the light reception face S of the light shielding film 121b is removed from the pixel 121a of FIG. 4 is used as the non-directive pixel. As an alternative, for example, a pixel that includes a plurality of photodiodes therein like the pixel 121a of FIG. 5 and outputs one detection signal to which all of the plurality of photodiodes contribute is used as the non-directive pixel.

<Example of Configuration of Imaging System>

FIG. 26 is a block diagram depicting an example of a configuration of an imaging apparatus 201 according to the embodiment of the present disclosure. It is to be noted that, in the figure, elements corresponding to those of the imaging apparatus 101 of FIG. 2 are denoted by the same reference signs and description of them is omitted suitably.

The imaging apparatus 201 is different in comparison with the imaging apparatus 101 in that a signal processing controlling section 211 and an imaging device 221 are provided in place of the signal processing controlling section 111 and the imaging device 121. The signal processing controlling section 211 is different in comparison with the signal processing controlling section 111 in that an image processing section 222 is provided in place of the restoration section 122.

Further, an imaging lens (interchangeable lens) 202 can be attached to and detached from the imaging apparatus 201. The imaging lens 202 forms an image of an imaging target on a light reception face of the imaging device 221 in a state in which it is attached to the imaging apparatus 201.

The imaging device 221 includes both a directive pixel and a non-directive pixel. In particular, as depicted in FIG. 27, a rectangular non-directive pixel region 242A and a directive pixel region 242B having a hollow square shape and surrounding a periphery of the non-directive pixel region 242A are provided on a light reception face of a semiconductor substrate 241 that configures the imaging device 221.

In the non-directive pixel region 242A, a plurality of non-directive pixels (not depicted) is arranged in a two-dimensional array. For example, in the non-directive pixel

region 242A, non-directive pixels having red, green, or blue color filters are arranged in accordance with the Bayer array. Further, the center of the non-directive pixel region 242A coincides with an optical axis of the imaging lens 202 in a state in which it is attached to the imaging apparatus 201, and an image of an imaging target is formed in the non-directive pixel region 242A by the imaging lens 202.

On the other hand, a plurality of directive pixels (not depicted) is arranged in the directive pixel region 242B. Since the degree of freedom in arrangement of the directive pixels is high as described hereinabove, it is possible to arrange the directive pixels in a non-rectangular region like the directive pixel region 242B to perform imaging. It is to be noted that the incident angle directivities of all directive pixels in the directive pixel region 242B need not be fully different from each other, but the incident angle directivities of some of the directive pixels may be same as each other.

Further, the imaging device 221 can perform switching between imaging of a captured image that is a RAW image that includes a detection signal outputted from the non-directive pixels of the non-directive pixel region 242A and in which an image of the imaging target is formed and imaging of a detection image that includes a detection signal outputted from the directive pixels of the directive pixel region 242B and in which an image of the imaging target is not formed. Further, the imaging device 221 supplies a captured image or a detection image obtained as a result of imaging to the image processing section 222 or to the bus B1.

The image processing section 222 restores a restoration image using the detection image acquired from the imaging device 221 and a coefficient set group similarly to the restoration section 122 of the imaging apparatus 101 of FIG. 2. Further, the image processing section 222 performs a demosaic process, γ correction, white balance adjustment, a conversion process into a predetermined compression format, and so forth for the restoration image or the captured image acquired from the imaging device 221 as occasion demands. Then, the image processing section 222 outputs the restoration image or the captured image to the bus B1.

The control section 123 may perform control of image generation, focus control, exposure control, and so forth of the imaging apparatus 201 as control of the imaging apparatus 201.

The detection section 125 detects at least attachment and detachment of the imaging lens 202 and outputs a signal indicating a result of the detection to the bus B1.

<Example of Configuration of Control Section 224>

FIG. 28 is a block diagram depicting an example of a configuration of some of functions implemented by the control section 224. The control section 224 includes an image generation controlling section 261, a focus controlling section 262, and an exposure controlling section 263.

The image generation controlling section 261 controls an output image generation process for generating an output image selectively using the non-directive pixels of the non-directive pixel region 242A and the directive pixels of the directive pixel region 242B. An image generated by the output image generation process is an image to be used for various uses such as, for example, displaying, recording, outputting to the outside, and restoration. For example, the image generation controlling section 261 controls the imaging device 221 and the image processing section 222 so as to select which image from among a captured image, a detection image, and a restoration image is to be used on the basis of whether or not the imaging lens 202 is attached or whether the present mode is an imaging mode or a repro-

duction mode to generate the selected image. It is to be noted that, for example, when the restoration process is performed later without performing the restoration process at the time of imaging, the restoration image is not generated at the time of imaging.

For example, in the case where imaging is performed using the non-directive pixels, the focus controlling section 262 adjusts the distance between the imaging lens 202 and the light reception face of the imaging device 221 to implement autofocus of the imaging apparatus 201.

The exposure controlling section 263 controls, for example, exposure time of the imaging device 221 and so forth to control exposure of the imaging apparatus 201.

<Process of Imaging Apparatus 201>

Now, an imaging process executed by the imaging apparatus 201 is described with reference to a flow chart of FIG. 29.

At step S101, the image generation controlling section 261 decides whether or not the imaging lens 202 is attached on the basis of a signal from the detection section 125. In the case where it is decided that the imaging lens 202 is not attached, the processing advances to step S102.

At step S102, the imaging apparatus 201 performs imaging of an imaging target using the directive pixels. In particular, the image generation controlling section 261 issues an instruction for generation of a detection image and a restoration image based on the detection image to the imaging device 221 and the image processing section 222.

The imaging device 221 performs imaging of an imaging target using the directive pixels in the directive pixel region 242B similarly as in the process at step S1 of FIG. 20. The imaging device 221 supplies a detection image obtained as a result of the imaging to the image processing section 222.

It is to be noted that, while the imaging device 221 performs imaging using not only the directive pixels but also the non-directive pixels, the captured image obtained from the non-directive pixels may not be used in the process at step S104.

Thereafter, at steps S103 to S105, processes similar to those at steps S2 to S4 of FIG. 20 are performed and then the imaging process ends. In other words, a restoration image is generated from the detection image and various processes are performed for the restoration image.

On the other hand, in the case where it is decided at step S101 that the imaging lens 202 is attached, the processing advances to step S106.

At step S106, the imaging apparatus 201 performs imaging of an imaging target using the non-directive pixels. In particular, the image generation controlling section 261 issues an instruction for generation of a captured image to the imaging device 221 and the image processing section 222.

The imaging device 221 performs imaging of an imaging target using the non-directive pixels in the non-directive pixel regions 242B. The imaging device 221 supplies a captured image that is a RAW image obtained as a result of the imaging to the image processing section 222.

It is to be noted that, while the imaging device 221 performs imaging using not only the non-directive pixels but also the directive pixels, the detection image obtained from the directive pixels may not be used in the process at step S107.

At step S107, the imaging apparatus 201 performs various processes for the captured image. For example, a process similar to the process for the restoration image at step S4 of FIG. 20 is performed for the captured image.

Thereafter, the imaging process ends.

As described above, a plurality of directive pixels (directive pixel output units) and non-directive pixels (non-direc-

tive pixel output units) can be selectively used on the basis of whether or not the imaging lens 202 is attached, and the versatility of the imaging apparatus 201 is enhanced. For example, in the case where a clear image is to be obtained, by attaching the imaging lens 202, a captured image can be generated using the non-directive pixels. On the other hand, for example, in the case where the imaging apparatus 201 is to be used in a size as small as possible, by detaching the imaging lens 202, a detection image can be generated using the directive pixels and a restoration image restored from the detection image can be generated.

<Focus Controlling Method>

Generally, an image circle that is a range within which an image of an imaging target is formed by the imaging lens 202 covers not only the non-directive pixel region 242A but also part of the directive pixel region 242B around the non-directive pixel region 242A. On the other hand, the light reception face of the directive pixels in the directive pixel region 242B is partly shielded, and the directive pixels can be used as phase difference pixels when image plane phase difference AF (autofocus) is performed.

Accordingly, for example, the focus controlling section 262 adjusts the distance between the imaging lens 202 and the light reception face of the imaging device 221 to adjust the focus of the imaging apparatus 201 on the basis of a phase difference between detection signals from two directive pixels whose light shielded ranges are different from each other from among the directive pixels arranged within the image circle of the imaging lens 202. Consequently, the image plane phase difference AF is implemented.

It is to be noted that the number of pairs of directive pixels used for the image plane phase difference AF can be set to an arbitrary number of one or more. Further, it is desirable to set the pair of directive pixels, for example, to a pair of directive pixels of the horizontal belt type or a pair of directive pixels of the vertical belt type. Furthermore, in the case where a pair of directive pixels of the horizontal belt type is used, for example, it is desirable to use a pair of directive pixels in which the light shielded ranges of the directive pixels are horizontally symmetrical such that the phase difference between the detection signals by the directive pixels is great. Similarly, in the case where a pair of directive pixels of the vertical belt type is used, it is desirable to use a pair of directive pixels in which the light shielded ranges of the directive pixels are vertically symmetrical such that a phase difference between the detection signals (images) by the directive pixels is great.

<Exposure Controlling Method>

In the case where a restoration image is restored from a detection image, a pixel value of each pixel of the restoration image is calculated by solving such simultaneous equations as indicated by the expressions (1) to (3) or the expressions (4) to (6) given hereinabove. Accordingly, if the light intensity of incident light increases and even one of directive pixel is saturated, this affects all pixels of the restoration image and the restoration accuracy of the restoration image degrades.

On the other hand, it is supposed that, in comparison with the directive pixels, the non-directive pixel is higher in light reception sensitivity because it does not include the light shielding film 121b. In particular, it is supposed that the detection signal level of the non-directive pixel is higher than the detection signal level of the directive pixel with respect to incident light having an equal light intensity.

Therefore, for example, in the case where imaging is performed using the directive pixels, some of the non-directive pixels in the non-directive pixel region **242A** may be used as a pixel for exposure control (hereinafter referred to as pixel for exposure) while the exposure controlling section **263** performs exposure control of the imaging apparatus **201** (directive pixels) on the basis of the detection signal level of the pixel for exposure.

For example, the exposure controlling section **263** controls exposure time of the directive pixels on the basis of the detection signal level of the pixel for exposure. Consequently, occurrence of saturation of the directive pixels is suppressed.

Further, for example, the exposure controlling section **263** performs control such that a movable ND (Neutral Density) filter is inserted into a space between the imaging target and the light reception face of the imaging device **221** or is extracted from the space between the imaging target and the light reception face of the imaging device **221** on the basis of the detection signal level of the pixel for exposure. This suppresses occurrence of saturation of the directive pixels.

It is to be noted that an electronic type variable ND filter having a dimming rate that can be changed by electronic control may be used such that the exposure controlling section **263** controls the dimming rate of the electronic type variable ND filter such that the directive pixels are not saturated on the basis of the detection signal level of the pixel for exposure.

It is to be noted that, in order to further enhance the light reception sensitivity of the pixel for exposure to increase the sensitivity difference from that of the directive pixels, for example, it is desirable to provide a white or transparent color filter in the pixel for exposure or not to provide a color filter in the pixel for exposure.

4. Modifications

In the following, modifications of the embodiment of the present disclosure described hereinabove are described.

<Modification Relating to Arrangement and so Forth of Directive Pixels>

Although FIG. **27** depicts the example in which the directive pixel region **242B** is arranged so as to surround the non-directive pixel region **242A**, since the directive pixels are high in degree of freedom in arrangement, the position and the shape of the directive pixel region can be changed arbitrarily.

For example, the directive pixel region need not necessarily be arranged so as to surround the four sides of the non-directive pixel region **242A**, and also it is possible to arrange the directive pixel region such that it neighbors any of three or less of the four sides of the non-directive pixel region **242A**. Also it is possible, for example, to divide the directive pixel region into a plurality of regions or arrange the directive pixel region at a position spaced away from the non-directive pixel region **242A**.

It is to be noted that, taking manufacturability and so forth into consideration, the directive pixel region and the non-directive pixel region are preferably formed on the same semiconductor substrate.

Further, if degradation of the image quality of a captured image is permissible, then also it is possible for the non-directive pixels and the directive pixels to be provided mixedly in one region without separating the non-directive pixel region and the directive pixel region from each other. In this case, when the non-directive pixels are used to perform capturing of a captured image, for example, a pixel

value of a pixel at which the directive pixel is provided is interpolated using pixel values of surrounding non-directive pixels.

Furthermore, the number of directive pixels and the number of non-directive pixels need not necessarily be equal to each other. On the other hand, the number of directive pixels to be used for generation of a detection image and the number of non-directive pixels to be used for generation of a captured image may be made coincident with each other while the angle of view of a restoration image restored using the detection image obtained from the directive pixels and the angle of view of the captured image obtained from the non-directive pixels are made coincident with each other. This makes it possible to obtain images of a same angle of view both in a case in which the imaging lens **202** is attached and in another case in which the imaging lens **202** is detached.

<Modification Relating to Directive Pixel (Imaging Device **121**)>

For example, it is possible to adopt, as the shape of the light shielding film **121b** of each pixel **121a**, a shape of a type other than the horizontal belt type, vertical belt type, L-shaped type and type having a rectangular opening.

Further, although, for example, the imaging device **121** described hereinabove with reference to FIG. **5** is directed to an example in which four photodiodes **121f** in two rows×two columns are provided in one pixel **121a**, the number and arrangement of the photodiodes **121f** are not restricted to those of the example.

For example, as depicted in FIG. **30**, one pixel **121a** may include nine photodiodes **121f-111** to **121f-119** lined up in three rows×three columns, for example, may be provided for one on-chip lens **121c**. In other words, one pixel output unit may include nine photodiodes **121f**.

Then, for example, by not reading out signals of five pixels of the photodiodes **121f-111**, **121f-114**, and **121f-117** to **121f-119**, an incident angle characteristic substantially similar to that of a pixel **121a** that includes an L-shaped light shielding film **121b** that is set to the range of the photodiodes **121f-111**, **121f-114**, and **121f-117** to **121f-119** can be obtained.

In this manner, an incident angle characteristic similar to that in the case where the light shielding film **121b** is provided can be obtained without providing the light shielding film **121b**. Further, by switching the pattern of the photodiodes **121f** from which a signal is not read out, the incident angle directivity can be set to a different value similarly to that in the case where the position and the range shielded by the light shielding film **121b** are changed.

Further, while the foregoing description is directed to an example in which one pixel output unit includes one pixel **121a**, also it is possible to configure one pixel output unit from a plurality of pixels **121a**.

For example, it is possible to configure one pixel output unit **301b** from pixels **121a-111** to **121a-119** lined up in three rows×three columns as depicted in FIG. **31**. It is to be noted that each of the pixels **121a-111** to **121a-119** includes, for example, one photodiode but does not include an on-chip lens.

For example, it is possible to implement an incident angle directivity of the pixel output unit **301b** by adding pixel signals from the pixels **121a** to generate a detection signal for one pixel of a detection image and stopping outputting or avoiding addition of pixel signals from some of the pixels **121a**. For example, by adding pixel signals of the pixels **121a-112**, **121a-113**, **121a-115**, and **121a-116** to generate a detection signal, an incident angle directivity can be

obtained which is similar to that in the case where the L-shaped light shielding film **121b** is provided in the range of the pixels **121a-111**, **121a-114**, and **121a-117** to **121a-119**.

Further, by switching the pattern of the pixels **121a** in which a pixel signal is added to a detection signal, the incident angle directivity can be changed similarly as in the case where the position and the range shielded by the light shielding film **121b** are changed.

Furthermore, in this case, it is possible to change the range of a pixel output unit, for example, by changing the combination of the pixels **121a**. For example, a pixel output unit **301s** can have pixels **121a** of two rows×two columns including the pixels **121a-111**, **121a-112**, **121a-114**, and **121a-115**.

Further, it is possible to set a range of a pixel output unit later, for example, by recording pixel signals of all pixels **121a** in advance and setting a combination of the pixels **121a** later. Furthermore, by selecting, from among the pixels **121a** in the set pixel output unit, a pixel **121a** whose pixel signal is to be added to the detection signal, an incident angle directivity of a pixel output unit can be set later.

<Modification Relating to Imaging Process>

Although the example is indicated in which a restoration image is restored immediately from a detection image at step **S104** of the imaging process of FIG. **29**, the restoration image may be restored using the detection image at a desired timing after the detection image is recorded into the recording medium **130** or is outputted to the outside. In this case, at the time of imaging, only the detection image is generated while the restoration image is not generated.

It is to be noted that, in this case, for example, the association section **126** associates the detection image and metadata corresponding to the detection image with each other by the method described hereinabove. Further, the metadata may include or may not include a coefficient set group to be used for restoration. In the latter case, for example, an imaging target distance or an angle of view at the time of restoration is included in the metadata, and at the timing of restoration, a coefficient set group corresponding to the imaging target distance or angle of view is acquired from the storage section **128** or the like.

Further, in the case where restoration of the restoration image is to be performed immediately from the detection image, for example, similarly as in the process of FIG. **20** described hereinabove, it is possible to select an image to be recorded or outputted to the outside from between the detection image and the restoration image at the time of capturing of any of a still image and a moving image.

<Other Modifications>

The imaging device **221** can be applied not only to an imaging apparatus of the type in which an imaging lens is attached or detached like the imaging apparatus **201** but also to an imaging apparatus of the type in which an imaging lens is always attached for imaging and an imaging apparatus of the type in which imaging is performed always without an imaging lens attached thereto. For example, in the case where the imaging device **221** is applied to an imaging apparatus of the type in which an imaging lens is always attached for imaging, the imaging device **221** is set such that imaging is performed always using the non-directive pixels. On the other hand, in the case where the imaging device **221** is applied to an imaging apparatus of the type in which imaging is performed always without an imaging lens attached thereto, the imaging device **221** is set such that imaging is performed always using the directive pixels. In this manner, one imaging device **221** can be applied to an

imaging apparatus of any type and the versatility of the imaging device **221** is improved.

Further, it is possible to apply the present disclosure also to an imaging apparatus or an imaging device that performs imaging of light of a wavelength other than visible rays such as infrared rays. In this case, the restoration image does not become an image in which an imaging target can be recognized by visual observation of the user but becomes an image in which the user cannot view the imaging target. It is to be noted that, since an ordinary imaging lens is difficult to transmit far infrared light, the present technology is effective, for example, in the case where imaging of far infrared light is to be performed. Accordingly, the restoration image may be an image of far infrared light and may be an image not of far infrared light but of other visible light or non-visible light.

Furthermore, for example, by applying mechanical learning such as deep learning, also it is possible to perform image recognition and so forth without using a restoration image after restoration but using a detection image before restoration and a detection signal set. Also in this case, by using the present technology, the accuracy in image recognition using a detection image before restoration is improved. In other words, the image quality of a detection image before restoration is improved.

5. Others

The series of processes described above not only can be executed by hardware but also can be executed by software. In the case where the series of processes is executed by software, a program that constructs the software is installed into a computer. Here, the computer includes a computer incorporated in hardware for exclusive use (for example, the control section **123** and so forth).

The program to be executed by a computer is recorded on and provided as, for example, a recording medium (such as the recording medium **130** or the like) as a package medium or the like. Further, the program may be provided through a wired or wireless transmission medium such as a local area network, the Internet or a digital broadcast.

It is to be noted that the program to be executed by the computer may be a program by which processing is performed in a time series in accordance with the sequence described in the present specification or may be a program by which processing is performed in parallel or at a necessary timing such as when the program is called.

Further, the embodiment of the present technology is not limited to the embodiments described hereinabove, and various alterations can be made without departing from the subject matter of the present technology.

For example, the present technology can assume a configuration for cloud computing in which one function is shared and processed cooperatively by a plurality of devices through a network.

Further, the steps described hereinabove in connection with the flow charts can be executed by a single apparatus or can be executed by sharing by a plurality of apparatus.

Furthermore, where one step includes a plurality of processes, the plurality of processes included in the one step can be executed by a single device and also can be executed by sharing by a plurality of devices.

It is to be noted that the present disclosure can take such configurations as described below.

(1)

An imaging device including:
a semiconductor substrate;

a plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target entering without intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, the configuration being operable to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light; and

a plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

(2)

The imaging device according to (1) above, in which a detection image in which an image of the imaging target is not formed is generated from detection signals outputted from the respective directive pixel output units, and a captured image in which an image of the imaging target is formed is generated from detection signals outputted from the respective non-directive pixel output units.

(3)

The imaging device according to (2) above, in which the number of the directive pixel output units used for generation of the detection image and the number of the non-directive pixel output units used for generation of the captured image coincide with each other, and

an angle of view of a restoration image restored using the detection image and an angle of view of the captured image coincide with each other.

(4)

The imaging device according to any one of (1) to (3) above, in which

the non-directive pixel output units are arranged in a rectangular region.

(5)

The imaging device according to (4) above, in which the directive pixel output units are arranged around the rectangular region.

(6)

The imaging device according to any one of (1) to (5) above, in which

the directive pixel output units each include one photodiode, and

a light shielding film configured to shield incidence of part of the incident light to the photodiode.

(7)

The imaging device according to any one of (1) to (5) above, in which

the directive pixel output units each include a plurality of photodiodes and output one detection signal to which some of the plurality of photodiodes contribute.

(8)

The imaging device according to any one of (1) to (7) above, in which

the imaging device has a configuration for causing output pixel values of at least two directive pixel output units from among the plurality of directive pixel output units to have incident angle directivities to incident light from the imaging target different from each other.

(9)

An image processing apparatus including:

an image generation controlling section configured to control an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel

output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device,

the imaging device including

a semiconductor substrate,

the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target entering without intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, the configuration being operable to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and

the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

(10)

The image processing apparatus according to (9) above, further including:

the imaging device.

(11)

The image processing apparatus according to (10) above, in which

the non-directive pixel output units are each arranged in a region in which, in a case where an imaging lens is attached to the image processing apparatus, an image of the imaging target is formed by the imaging lens.

(12)

The image processing apparatus according to (11) above, in which

the image generation controlling section controls the output image generation process such that one of a detection image including a detection signal outputted from the plurality of directive pixel output units or a captured image including a detection signal outputted from the plurality of non-directive pixel output units is selected on a basis of whether or not the imaging lens is attached to the image processing apparatus.

(13)

The image processing apparatus according to (11) or (12) above, in which

at least some of the directive pixel output units are arranged in an image circle of the imaging lens in a state in which the imaging lens is attached to the image processing apparatus,

the image processing apparatus further including:

a focus controlling section configured to adjust, in a case where the imaging lens is attached to the image processing apparatus, a focus of the image processing apparatus on a basis of detection signals outputted from at least two of the directive pixel output units in the image circle.

(14)

The image processing apparatus according to any one of (10) to (13) above, further including:

an exposure controlling section configured to perform exposure control on a basis of a detection signal outputted from at least one of the non-directive pixel output units.

(15)

The image processing apparatus according to (14) above, in which

the exposure controlling section controls exposure of the directive pixel output units.

(16)

The image processing apparatus according to any one of (9) to (15) above, further including:

an image processing section configured to restore a restoration image using a detection image including detection signals outputted from the plurality of directive pixel output units.

(17)

An image processing method including:

an image generation controlling step of controlling an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device,

the imaging device including a semiconductor substrate,

the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target entering without intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, the configuration being operable to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

(18)

A program for causing a computer to execute a process including:

an image generation controlling step of controlling an output image generation process selectively using detection signals outputted from a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device and detection signals outputted from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device,

the imaging device including a semiconductor substrate,

the plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target entering without intervention of any of an imaging lens and a pinhole, the configuration being operable to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity to an incident angle of the incident light, and the plurality of non-directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate and having no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

(19)

An imaging device including:

a semiconductor substrate;

a plurality of directive pixel output units formed on the semiconductor substrate; and

a non-directive pixel output unit formed on the semiconductor substrate, in which

the imaging device has a configuration for causing output pixel values of at least two directive pixel output units from among the plurality of directive pixel output units to have incident angle directivities to incident light from an imaging target different from each other.

It is to be noted that the advantageous effects described in the present specification are exemplary to the last and are not restrictive, and other advantageous effects may be applicable.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

101 Imaging apparatus, 111 Signal processing controlling section, 121 Imaging device, 121a, 121a' Pixel, 121A Light reception face, 121b Light shielding film, 121c On-chip

lens, 121e, 121f Photodiode, 122 Restoration section, 123 Control section, 125 Detection section, 126 Association section, 201 Imaging apparatus, 202 Imaging lens, 211 Signal processing controlling section, 221 Imaging device, 222 Image processing section, 241 Semiconductor substrate, 242A Non-directive pixel region, 242B Directive pixel region, 261 Image generation controlling section, 262 Focus controlling section, 263 Exposure controlling section, 301a, 301s Pixel output unit

The invention claimed is:

1. An imaging device, comprising:

a semiconductor substrate;

a plurality of directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein

each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is configured to receive incident light from an imaging target without intervention of an imaging lens and a pinhole,

an angle of the incident light from the imaging target for each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is same,

each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is configured to independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity of a respective directive pixel output unit at an incident angle of the incident light, and the incident angle directivity of each of the plurality of directive pixel output units is different; and

a plurality of non-directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein the plurality of non-directive pixel output units has no configuration for the incident angle directivity.

2. The imaging device according to claim 1, wherein each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is configured to output a first detection signal,

each non-directive pixel output unit of the plurality of non-directive pixel output units is configured to output a second detection signal, and

the imaging device is configured to:

generate a detection image based on the first detection signal output from the each directive pixel output unit, wherein the imaging target is absent in the detection image; and

generate a captured image based on the second detection signal output from the each non-directive pixel output unit, wherein the captured image includes the imaging target.

3. The imaging device according to claim 2, wherein a number of the plurality of directive pixel output units associated with the generation of the detection image coincide with a number of the plurality of non-directive pixel output units associated with the generation of the captured image, and

an angle of view of a restoration image coincides with an angle of view of the captured image, and the restoration image is associated with the detection image.

4. The imaging device according to claim 1, further comprising a rectangular region that includes the plurality of non-directive pixel output units.

5. The imaging device according to claim 4, wherein the plurality of non-directive pixel output units is around the rectangular region.

6. The imaging device according to claim 1, wherein each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units includes:

a photodiode; and
 a light shielding film, wherein the light shielding film is configured to shield the photodiode from incidence of a part of the incident light.

7. The imaging device according to claim 1, wherein each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units includes a plurality of photodiodes, and the each directive pixel output unit is configured to output a detection signal corresponding to a set of photodiodes of the plurality of photodiodes.

8. The imaging device according to claim 1, wherein the imaging device is configured to control a first output pixel value and a second output pixel value, the first output pixel value is associated with a first directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units, the second output pixel value is associated with a second directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units, and the incident angle directivity to the incident light from the imaging target for the first output pixel value is different from the incident angle directivity of the second output pixel value based on the first output pixel value and the second output pixel value.

9. An image processing apparatus, comprising:
 an imaging device that includes:
 a semiconductor substrate;
 a plurality of directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein
 each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is configured to receive incident light from an imaging target without intervention of an imaging lens and a pinhole, an angle of the incident light from the imaging target for each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is same, and each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is configured to:
 independently set an incident angle directivity indicative of a directivity of a respective directive pixel output unit at an incident angle of the incident light, wherein the incident angle directivity of each of the plurality of directive pixel output units is different; and
 output a first detection signal; and
 a plurality of non-directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein
 the plurality of non-directive pixel output units has no configuration for the incident angle directivity, and
 each non-directive pixel output unit of the plurality of non-directive pixel output units is configured to output a second detection signal; and
 an image generation controlling section configured to control an output image generation process, wherein the output image generation process is controlled based on selective usage of:
 the first detection signal output from the each directive pixel output unit, and
 the second detection signal output from the each non-directive pixel output unit.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
 the imaging device further includes a specific region that includes the plurality of non-directive pixel output units.

11. The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
 the imaging device is further configured to:
 generate a detection image based on the first detection signal output from the each directive pixel output unit; and
 generate a captured image based on the second detection signal output from the each non-directive pixel output unit.

12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising
 an exposure controlling section configured to control exposure of the imaging device based on the second detection signal output from at least one non-directive pixel output unit of the plurality of non-directive pixel output units.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
 the exposure controlling section is further configured to control exposure of the plurality of directive pixel output units.

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising
 an image processing section configured to restore a restoration image based on a detection image, wherein the detection image includes the first detection signal output from each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units.

15. An image processing method, comprising:
 controlling an output image generation process based on selective usage of:
 a first detection signal output from each directive pixel output unit of a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device, and
 a second detection signal output from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device, wherein
 the imaging device includes:
 a semiconductor substrate;
 the plurality of directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein
 each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units has a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target without intervention of an imaging lens and a pinhole,
 an angle of the incident light from the imaging target for each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is same,
 each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units has a configuration to independently set an incident angle directivity, the incident angle directivity of the each directive pixel output unit is indicative of a directivity of a respective directive pixel output unit at an incident angle of the incident light, and
 the incident angle directivity of each of the plurality of directive pixel output units is different; and
 the plurality of non-directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein the plurality of non-directive pixel output units has no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

16. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute operations, the operations comprising:

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controlling an output image generation process based on selective usage of:
a first detection signal output from each directive pixel output unit of a plurality of directive pixel output units of an imaging device, and
a second detection signal output from a plurality of non-directive pixel output units of the imaging device, wherein
the imaging device includes:
a semiconductor substrate;
the plurality of directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein
each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units has a configuration for receiving incident light from an imaging target without intervention of an imaging lens and a pinhole,

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an angle of the incident light from the imaging target for each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units is same,
each directive pixel output unit of the plurality of directive pixel output units has a configuration to independently set an incident angle directivity, and
the incident angle directivity of the each directive pixel output unit is indicative of a directivity of a respective directive pixel output unit at an incident angle of the incident light, and
the incident angle directivity of each of the plurality of directive pixel output units is different; and
the plurality of non-directive pixel output units on the semiconductor substrate, wherein the plurality of non-directive pixel output units has no configuration for providing the incident angle directivity.

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